JOHN BULL

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For meaning of this No. see Page ii. of cover.

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

There is a Kingdom of Someday.
There is a garden, it seems;
There is a land where the fairies
Weave us a garland of dreams;
There is a Garden enchanted,
Love will discover the way.
Dreams will come true, For me and for you,
There in that Land of Someday.

THE LAND OF SOMEDAY

GIVEN WITH
THIS WEEK'S

WORDS & MUSIC.

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The following are the fifty numbers for our issue of August 3rd:—

3124	180317	439155	599074	707887
41156	203904	467078	606049	711956
73327	218261	503859	614245	714575
104745	225756	508729	626303	715121
112068	251563	522976	642365	715282
123389	256038	541873	665367	720218
141869	270262	545477	666998	721056
151215	314198	565683	675080	722087
169125	348798	571398	680327	724531
174567	392600	575561	707091	724965

THE FIFTY NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF THIS WEEK WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OUR ISSUE DATED SEPTEMBER 28TH (PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 26TH, 1912).

JOHN BULL.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Letters must be addressed to the Editor or the Publisher, according to whether they relate to Editorial or Publishing matters. All **FINANCIAL, INSURANCE** *and* **SPORTING** *enquiries should be addressed to the* **CITY OFFICES, 52, NEW BROAD STREET, E.C.** *All other communications should be addressed to* **93, LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.**

TO READERS ABROAD.

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THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

ULSTERIA.

This disease is developing rapidly, and we do not like the look of it. Sir Edward Carson may keep cool enough—in fact, he says he is "quite cold"—but the sprinkling of religious fanaticism which will be engendered by the "divine services" on the morning of September 28th may lead to many broken skulls. *Ulster will have to come out of the Bill.*

BRITISH OIL SUPPLY.

Was the retirement of the Master of Elibank in any way connected with the Government contract for the supply of oil fuel, seeing that he has joined the Board of the Mexican Oil Fields, controlled by Lord Cowdray? Up to quite recently the Admiralty relied upon the Borneo Oil Fields, being practically the only fields in the British Empire, and controlled by the Shell Transport Company. But it recently fell upon bad times, Lord Rothschild bought up the bulk of the debenture stock, the Company was turned over to the Royal Dutch Petroleum Company and the Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Company, and as the oil fields thus become the possession of a foreign company—with much German capital—the British Admiralty can no longer rely on their supply. But other British Empire oil fields are coming.

THE TOO LONG VACATION.

How long will this country have to wait until a Government takes in hand a thorough reform of the judicial system? The judges have things too much their own way. The result is that arrears of cases are piled up, the country is put to the expense of employing more judges than are really needed, and litigants are subjected to grave inconvenience, delay, and loss. All this is to their learned lordships, however, a matter of lofty indifference.

BRAVO, ROBERT!

We are not without hope of some day seeing Lord Robert Cecil come into the open as an out-and-out Business Government man. He is always protesting against the fraud of the Party system, and we remember that on one occasion he and ourselves respectively moved and seconded an amendment of protest against the Government annexing the time of private Members—as they are called. He has now been telling his constituents how Bills are carried by automatic majorities. On a recent evening, he says, he counted only forty in the House during the discussion of a measure, and yet when the division bell rang upwards of five hundred Members streamed in from all parts and voted. He might have added that out of the faithful forty, thirty-nine were probably asleep most of the time.

BYLES ON THE SITUATION.

Sir W. P. Byles is ominous. He warns Mr. Bonar Law and Sir Edward Carson that "indictments for treason felony are preparing in the Attorney-General's office." That *would* be bringing the game to its *reductio ad absurdum*. Imagine Sir Rufus Isaacs and Sir John Simon dropping into the House of Commons smoking-room and requesting "Boney" and "Teddy" to walk down the Embankment with them, to the Old Bailey! What a merry party they would be! And after conviction and the death sentence having been commuted to penal servitude for life, picture the ever sympathetic Byles himself pleading for the abolition of their forcible feeding! We must ask our cartoonist to depict the two convicts at exercise. Carson should make a lovely subject!

GENERAL BOOTH—

Our Open Letter last week had scarcely seen the light when the eyes of the wonderful old man to whom it was addressed were closed for ever in that sleep of peace which, in the merciful scheme of an otherwise cruel Nature, comes to all of us at last. We are happy to remember that our last words to the dead warrior—for warrior, in the truest sense, he was—were words of true sympathy and affectionate regard. Much of his work and much of his method we liked not; but what matters that? He was a great personality, and with him has gone almost the last of the big men of the nineteenth century. Peace to his memory!

AND AFTER.

Coming from the sentimental to the practical, we venture to predict that the old General's death spells the end of the Salvation Army. A process of disintegration has been in operation for some time past, and it will be impossible for Mr. Bramwell Booth to arrest it. The first thing he is called upon to do is to explain, if he can, the inspired press campaign which Colonel Kitching has been organising, ostensibly with his tacit approval, in favour of his reversion to the dead man's shoes.

Of vital interest to women—MRS. BULL, Tuesdays. One Penny.

Silly Season Journalism.

Some of the papers are going it strong. They have been telling us how, aided by the sagacity of a faithful terrier, Prince Louis of Orleans discovered and overcame a burglar at the Chateau d'Eu—a burglar armed with a "fully-loaded revolver" and a "highly tempered dagger"; whilst a search of the villain—conducted, apparently unaided, by the Prince—revealed the fact that on his person were priceless rings, stolen from the Chateau many months ago, and the two crowns of Brazil, "bent and twisted so as to fit into the lining of the man's coat." And we saw people seriously reading this piffle, and heard them discussing it!

Club Law.

We have received numerous, but not very convincing, complaints about the suppression of clubs in Wales. A Neath correspondent writes that the police "are raiding all the small clubs in South Wales, but are not touching the larger clubs, seeing that they are used by the present Government for Party purposes." Of course, it may be possible that large clubs are conducted with greater decency than small ones, but this suggestion of Party spirit on the part of the authorities ought to be looked into. Meanwhile, a reader from Warwickshire tells us, on the other hand, from hearsay evidence, that two Liberal clubs in the neighbourhood of Mr. Lloyd George's residence have now written in large letters across their buildings the words, "Conservative Club." If that be true, it will be interesting to see whether they are raided.

"Jewdential."

A medical man informs us that the American Prudential Company is called "the Jewdential," and that "even their own employees very often have to fight them for their wages. Thousands have paid their contributions for years, and for the lapse of a single payment have lost all. Is that not robbery of the meanest kind? And still they wax fat and prosperous, and still pursue their agreeable occupation of systematically separating foolish people from their hard-earned savings. They boast they have the strength of Gibraltar, this organised gang of forty thousand sneak-thieves." We must invite this correspondent to join our staff.

A Revival.

Certain papers are announcing with a great flourish of trumpets that young men are inclined to side whiskers, and striped trousers, and even stocks round their necks. The authority for this theory is that some scribe detected "five fine examples of the new fashion," which is really a very old one, in—we give you a thousand guesses—the Burlington Arcade! Of course, the kind of young man who perambulates that centre of fashion is precisely the sort of person we should all want to imitate, but we have sufficient belief in the good taste of modern women to feel certain that the growth of face fungus will not be encouraged. At the same time, we could almost forgive side whiskers if they brought in the revival of bright garments instead of the present hideous exhibitions of drab, horrible, depressing cloth.

The Difference.

One of our readers is indignant because, at the funeral of the boy scouts the other day, a costermonger provided seats for on-lookers and shouted, "Grand Stand, 3d." No doubt it was not in very good taste to keep on shouting offers of this kind while the procession passed along, and we quite enter into the feelings of bereaved relatives who resented such a method of earning a livelihood. But, after all, we also remember that sensational funerals are usually made an opportunity for commerce.

"Public Opinion" Again.

The Party papers have been indulging in the usual jubilation over the East Carmarthen Election. The *Daily Express* has triumphant headlines about the "flight of Liberal votes." The *Morning Post* chuckles over the reduction of the Government majority, and exclaims complacently, "That is something." The *Standard* informs us that "the Church Defence Committee regard the result of the election in East Carmarthen as very encouraging." The *Daily News and Leader*, on the other hand, rejoices over "a smashing blow to the Church Party," and the *Daily Chronicle* yells itself hoarse over a "Welsh National triumph." So everything is for the best in the best of all possible worlds, and Party people of every colour and complexion are as pleased as Punch. Meanwhile, the advocates of healthy government and sane, business-like methods continue to smile.

A Blasphemous Impostor.

Instead of Prince Michael, the Jezreelist impostor of New Brompton—who blasphemously claims to be "Head Councillor of Israel and the Guide through the Narrow Pass into the City of God; an Ambassador of God and the Lord Jesus Christ"—firing at our head this "Vision of Habakuk," will he be good enough to answer the questions we have already asked him, the most important being, "Is he the Mike who was arrested in Detroit 14 or 15 years ago in regard to his association with Eliza Courts, Berenice Bechel, and a colony of Holy Rollers in Hamlin Avenue?" Is it merely a coincidence that we find in the "Vision of Habakuk," as aforesaid, the statement that "As man is not without the woman in the Lord, God has given him (Michael) for his helpmeet even the woman Eliza Court Mills, daughter of Joseph"?

Bliss Rehearsed.

We have received a delightful invitation to witness a dress rehearsal of "The Gates of Paradise," at the Rehearsal Theatre, in Maiden Lane. This sounds an appropriate place, and as the card admits two, we have handed it over to Jim Crow, who will no doubt seize the opportunity to enjoy all the delights which are to be found within the portals of Paradise, in the company of his Beloved. The following extract from the libretto is certainly very tempting:—

> That moment's glance of startled dark eyes sweet
> So sapped my strength that humbly at her feet
> I could have knelt to worship her, and plead
> Some gracious chance to gain her favour's meed.

Scarcely a good pennyworth, was it?

The "Unfit."

The Conway Board of Guardians have received a practical lesson in the need for sterilisation. The Clerk gives the history of five of the Union's cases. The first is that of a man from Roewen, who was admitted to the asylum when sixteen years of age; he had been in the institution fifty-five years, at a cost of £1,138. The second had been in twenty-nine years, and had cost £660. The third had been in forty-six years, at a cost of £1,046, and another thirty years, costing £683. The fifth had been detained fifty-two years and had cost the ratepayers £1,160. The five cases were a dead loss to the ratepayers of £4,600. If anything stronger in the way of argument is needed for some method of dealing with the prevention of lunacy, it is supplied by the statement that the Union has eighty-five cases of this sort. What says Mr. Herbert Vivian to this?

"Waste," a fascinating Storyette, by Walter Moore—

"A Message from the Miracle Girl."

We do not happen to be readers of the *London Budget*, but a kind correspondent has sent us a delightful cutting with the heading, "A Message from the Miracle Girl." This lady relates her experiences as follows:—

Sometimes people in London come up to me in the street and speak to me. The other day a man came to me in the street and said, "Excuse me, Miss, but may I touch you, perhaps the spirit of the Master may pass through you into me."

You must break down the barrier before the inrush of glory can come in.

We are curious to know what barriers are referred to, and also the precise meaning of "an inrush of glory."

Extra-Nuptial Spite.

Here is a legitimate grievance. One of our correspondents is in receipt of 5s. a week under an affiliation order. She does not complain about the scantiness of the contribution, or the irregularity of its payment, but she informs us that the father sends a postcard every week saying, "I have sent the money for your illegitimate child under separate cover." This sounds somewhat spiteful, and we are not sure that it does not amount to libel. But as an action might be very costly, we can only suggest that the lady should also reply by postcard, in the following words, "I have received the money for your illegitimate child." Such a procedure would come under the category of tit for tat.

The Bournemouth Trams Again.

We observe, with edification mingled with amusement, that the sanctimonious Tramway Companies of Bournemouth print advertisements of tombstones on the back of their tickets. This might be rather alarming for nervous old ladies, as it seems to suggest the possibility of accidents; but, of course, we are perfectly well aware that a tramway company which keeps the Sabbath very holy can run no risk of Divine displeasure.

Weather and Whisky.

Remarkable statistics of drunkenness have been published. As might be supposed, very hot weather induces thirst, and thirst is the mother of intoxication. But contrariwise (as Alice used to say at Wonderland, S.E.) wet weather drives people into public-houses, and there they look upon the beer when it is brown. Then, again, there is an imperative necessity to keep out the cold and keep up their own spirits by putting other spirits down. So what is a sober man to do?

Encouraging.

"I am delighted," says a reader, "with your sporting proposal with regard to the Insurance Act, and if you start a shilling fund to defray your expenses I believe you would get enough shillings to pay your expenses and to buy yourself a trophy in memory of the occasion. What with Eugenists prepared to lock us up if we dare to get spliced without asking their leave, and anti-smokers and teetotalers trying to make us pay all their taxes, our legislating brethren badly need a touch of bit and brake to check their rapidly increasing pretensions to boss us in every detail of life." But the worst of it is that we prefer to do our own law!

Still Marching On.

We observe that Sir John Randles attributes his recent victory at N.W. Manchester to three reasons, one of which was that the constituency wanted "a business man as a Member." Who says that our work has been wasted?

Lunatics At Large.

We are informed that a curious and dangerous state of things exists at the Chapel-en-le-Frith Workhouse. There are seventeen persons in the workhouse certified as insane. Four are detained in the infirmary, but the rest are at liberty to roam about the general wards, to the terror of the other inmates. Amongst them is a person who a short time ago, in a fit of temper, attempted to strangle an old man. There is at large another, a woman, who recently cut her throat. So seriously have the ordinary inmates been terrorised that a Commissioner of Lunacy paid the place a visit and presented a report to the Guardians. In it he says he noticed three women amongst the patients who were of the troublesome class, and who ought to be detained in an asylum. He also criticised the unfairness of putting the responsibility for the safety of these people on to the workhouse staff, and advised that these certified persons be at once sent to an asylum. So far, we have not heard of the recommendations being carried out.

A Harrogate Police Case.

Evidently the Harrogate police are not anxious to oblige. While staying at this health resort in June, the driver of a motor in which a visitor was seated collided with a man on a motor-cycle. Hearing or assuming that the police would take proceedings, the owner called at the station and requested the inspector to do so before he left the town—which he proposed to do on August 3rd. During the time he remained, however, they made no sign. But five or six days after he had left they served the chauffeur, in Kent, with a summons for furious driving, his travelling expenses to Harrogate on the day of hearing, a matter of between £2 and £3, having to be borne by his employer. The police then called two witnesses, who apparently had been available any time since the accident; and then, to crown it all, the magistrates dismissed the case without calling upon the defence. It is not to be expected that the Harrogate police will retard or hasten their official footsteps to accommodate their quarry, but in this case there appears to have been as little reason for delaying the proceedings as there was for commencing them.

Too Particular.

It may or may not be well to make martyrs of Hyde Park orators who express themselves somewhat too frankly about the rulers of our country, but we fail to see why Percy William Brown was prosecuted for having said, amongst other things, that Cromwell butchered thousands of Catholics in Ireland. Surely that is a historical fact or, in the alternative, it is an opinion which has been supported by quite a large number of authoritative writers. What a nice state of things we shall be confronted with if we are forbidden from giving our views about historical personages! At this rate, it will soon be high treason to assert that Queen Anne is dead.

Temperance and "The Trade."

Temperance hotels have always been considered a great source of revenue to the adjacent public-houses, especially those with off-licences, and we should much like to have from the proprietors of large hotels in Tottenham Court Road a return showing their bar trade before and since the saintly Young Men's Christian Association's mammoth premises were opened. If the figures were published, we have reason to believe that somebody would get a shock.

Appears in this week's MRS. BULL. Now on sale. One Penny.

An Unjustified Allegation.

We are bound to say that Mr. Ross Clyne, of the Manchester City Council, has not justified his allegation that the Chief Constable of Manchester recently issued an order to superintendents calling attention to the fact that "*the number of prisoners* for the half year was 25 per cent. below the average, and that efforts must be made by officers and constables to bring the number up to normal during the next half year." On the other hand, the reply of Councillor Thewlis, the Chairman of the Watch Committee, that "the Chief Constable states there is no truth whatever in the allegation that an order had been issued to the members of the Manchester police to the effect that *the arrests for drunkenness* during the half-year were 25 per cent. below the average, and that efforts must be made to bring the number up to normal" is merely a denial of what Mr. Ross Clyne did not allege—not of what he did. The Chairman of the Watch Committee has put up his own skittles for the pleasure of knocking them down again.

Falkland's Episcopal Beggar.

Our Open Letter to the Bishop of the Falkland Is'ands, on his threat to resign if he does not get the £100,000 for which he has been so laboriously begging in this country for over a year, has brought us heaps of letters. His lordship makes a lot of the fact that his diocese extends from Panama to Cape Horn. There are wealthy men in the Falks and dollar millionaires in San Point, Valparaiso, Iquique, Para and Rio, and there are tens of thousands of half-starved women and children in this country. So far, the dear man has scraped together exactly £6,150, equal to 123,000 shillings, equal again to the same number of square meals. What a god-send they would have been (for instance) to the poor innocent victims of the late strike! Never mind about his lordship's threat to resign; nobody will be very much the worse off for that, in this world or the next. If South America wants a swell cathedral to glorify the person and office of the bishop, let it disgorge the cost of the same from its own capacious, dollar-stuffed pockets.

First and Second Classers.

With reference to the regulations for family bathing at the open-air swimming bath in Quarry Road, Tunbridge Wells, we are asked why "the second-class dressing boxes will be reserved for the exclusive use of females, and the first-class dressing boxes will be reserved for the exclusive use of males." Probably because the authorities think all the men likely to use them are first-class and all the women second. Anyway, it is an inexcusable insult to a delightful sex, and, with our hand on our heart, we protest against it.

Telephone Company's Unclaimed Deposits.

Now that the State has taken over the National Telephone service we are wondering whether the Company has returned all the unclaimed deposits held or whether the money has been handed over to the Post Office. Two-and-a-half years ago Mr. Herbert Samuel promised us in the House that the matter would not be "lost sight of."

Two Questions.

When are the French Customs officials going to arrange for the inspection of English hand-baggage on board, between England and France, as we do between France and England? And when are we going to have a four o'clock service to Paris, instead of the stupid 2.20 one?

Bounce and Telephones.

Without a doubt the Post Office bounces telephone users as did the National Telephone Company before it. And apparently nobody has yet found any remedy. The Comptroller simply certifies the account as correct, without in fact knowing anything about it, and the subscriber has to pay—for every operator who makes out a call account is, in the opinion of the Postmaster-General, as infallible as the Pope of Rome. May we ask whether the Postmaster General would pay his butcher or his baker or his tinker or his tailor an account which he considered to be an extortion? But as the head of a public department he has another way. He simply flings down the Comptroller's account, says you must pay it, and that you have no right to go behind it. It is about time this extraordinary pretension were tested in Court.

Yankee Enterprise.

The Yankees are really nice, charming people. They recently electrocuted some five or six Italians. Thereupon a firm of undertakers took possession of the bodies for advertising purposes and charged a fee for viewing them. We have no doubt that this was quite a profitable undertaking, and we wonder that it has not occurred to commercial Yankees before. It would certainly not occur to anyone else.

The Party Press.

There has come into our possession a remarkable illustration of the manner in which the Party Press befools the public. It consists of two paragraphs, on one and the same "proof" slip, which were sent in by the editor of a Tory paper, on the day of the late South Hackney election, with instructions that "the right one" was to be used, according to the result

Another Blow.

The result of the election which returned the Unionist candidate by a substantial majority of , must be some blow to Mr. Asquith. Even Mr. Bottomley's belated and rather half-hearted advocacy of Mr. Morison could not prevent Mr. Gibson giving the Unholy Alliance a nasty jar. Blunders, like curses, come home to roost, and the combined unpopularity of the Insurance Act, Home Rule and Disestablishment was too much for the battalions of mis-rule, even when supported by the *francs-tireurs* of the John Bull League. But perhaps many members of that sodality fought rather shy of voting for a Government whose every act their leader has been at some pains to pillory. Mr. Bottomley has denounced "party" so vehemently that he must not be annoyed because some of his henchmen have taken the liberty of ignoring his benediction of Mr. Morison, and thinking and voting according to the dictates of their own consciences.

Fair Fight and no Favour.

As it was, the result of the election is no indication of the feeling of the country. It was not a straight fight. The Government at the last moment had to call in the aid of Mr. Bottomley and his enormous personal influence in the constituency to maintain its majority. The wonderful inconsistency of the protagonist of a business Government does not seem to have occurred to the bright voters of South Hackney. After having played "Aunt Sally" with every Act, both legislative and administrative of the present Government for three years, Mr. Bottomley suddenly came to the conclusion that the best way to obtain a business Government was to vote for another Whip's puppet of the most unbusinesslike Ministry this poor country of ours has ever been afflicted with. The moral influences which are, according to his own statement, having a battle royal in Mr. Bottomley's brain, might with advantage to the country have been allowed to have a show *before* instead of after the election

Sound advice for the wife, daughter or fiancee

RALLYING AROUND.

We have hailed with satisfaction the growing evidence in the trade press of the country of disgust with the Party System. We have before us a very thoughtful article on "The Labour Unrest," by Mr. Samuel J. Sewell in the August number of *The Furniture Record*. Here is a typical extract:—"For years past commerce has been the Cinderella of Parliament—both parties being equally to blame. Look at the present Government of a commercial nation—one business man only in the Ministry, he a shipowner, and at the head of agriculture."

ANOTHER CONVERT.

Our Sporting Contemporary, *The Daily News and Leader*, will have to revise its staff. Here is Mr. Harold Spender breaking out into a strong protest against the stupefying effects of the Party System, and complaining that the supporters of the Government are "expected to act like the good child in the story—be seen and not heard," and that "it always happens that in proportion as a Government prolongs its life the supply of men from behind grows slacker, and the supporters become less and less independent." This is Party heresy indeed.

THE WEEK'S "CHESTNUT":—

JIM CROW (*on an ear-biting expedition*): "If you will only lend me twenty pounds, I shall be eternally your debtor."

"YOU HAD FEARFUL WEATHER FOR YOUR HOLIDAYS, MR. SNOOKS. DIDN'T THE TIME HANG HEAVILY?"
"OH, DEAR NO! I TOOK 'JOHN BULL'S ANNUAL' WITH ME—THANKS."

THE CHARITY PERFORMANCE.

Next week we shall make an important announcement in connection with the great performance which—with the aid of many eminent artistes whom we gladly welcome as allies in so good a cause—we propose to give for the benefit of the poor families suffering as the result of the recent Dock Strike. Until then, we must ask our readers to "Wait and see."

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

["Taking the Biscuit" has become a classic phrase, expressive of a satirical reward or recognition. In this column we present, in all good humour, the token to such of our contemporaries and others as may have distinguished themselves by some unconventional utterance or act.]

For stating that a man was summoned for "preventing P.C. J. W. Stocks from EXCEEDING *his duty at Oadby,"*
THE LEICESTER DAILY POST
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For retorting, according to the "South Wales Argus," to a prisoner's application for her hat and jacket, "Answer the charge. You shall say NOTHING *until you have answered,"*
THE MAYOR OF ABERGAVENNY (Mr. J. O. Marsh)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For issuing the following placard:—
"Gas Suicide Epidemic
Among Council Employees
2 Tragedies in 1 Street
Child Killed in Playground
HEALTHY *St. Pancras*
Beats Rural England,"
THE ST. PANCRAS CHRONICLE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that, "Only three of the party (of yachtsmen recently arrested as spies) remained in the yacht, as one of the five has returned to England INSTEAD *of attempting to* CROSS BY WATER,"
THE EVENING NEWS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in an advertisement in the "Daily Mail" that, "The proved deposits at Murrurundi alone are capable of yielding FIFTY TO SIXTY MILLION *gallons of crude oil* PER TON *of shale,"*
THE BRITISH AUSTRALIAN OIL COMPANY
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in its announcement of the death of General Booth, that "His grand vigour of mind and body gave some HOPE *that the end was very near,"*
THE DAILY MAIL
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in an announcement of an angling competition that, "All competitors must register at the 'Half-Way House' BEFORE STARTING. *Also to weigh their fish in* AT THE SAME TIME,"
MR. A. W. WALKER
("The Half-Way House," Denham)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in a paragraph regarding "Russel Daily, the TWELVE-YEAR-OLD *son of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Daily, of Philadelphia," that "his present weight is just* 11 *lb.* 11 *ozs.," he is "said to be the world's smallest baby," and that "the mother of the baby is not yet* 16 . . . *the father is not yet* 17,"
THE SOUTH WALES ECHO
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For publishing an advertisement in the "Welsh Gazette" stating that, "As the SPRING *is approaching you will soon be thinking of your new suit,"*
MR. RHYS HUGHES (White Hall, Lampeter)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

HALF-A-CROWN FOR EVERY "BISCUIT" PUBLISHED.

We give 2s. 6d. to the sender of every "Biscuit" published. Should the same "Biscuit" be forwarded by more than one competitor, preference will be given to the reader whose letter is first opened. In forwarding newspaper cuttings, sufficient must be sent to identify the name of the paper and date of issue.

Given by MRS. BULL. Consult her always.

THE INSURANCE ACT MUST GO!

SHAM SCHEME MUST BE DROPPED AND A REAL ONE ESTABLISHED.

By T. GOOD.

More than a year ago I ventured to say that there was only one way in which State Insurance could be worked satisfactorily in this country, and that was by the bold process of nationalising all the insurance companies and collecting societies, making their business a State monopoly, adding the new compulsory scheme to it, and employing the officials and agents of the companies and societies in the entire administration. And that, in fact, is the only business-like way. Industrial life assurance is exceedingly costly, inflicts much loss and many hardships upon the people, and is by no means a pleasant occupation for the agents. It is, indeed, a business open to many abuses, and is a most fit matter for State control. In Italy, for example, insurance has just been made a State monopoly, but in our case nationalisation is far more necessary, in view of the new compulsory scheme.

In this scheme we have got a costly sham and a cruel fraud. The Act will have to be re-cast to an extent almost amounting to repeal, and while we are about the business of suggesting amendments or advocating the death of the present scheme, according to the point of view we adopt, we might as well make a good job of it. Of course, there are many people who imagine that the new scheme can be made quite satisfactory by a few mild amendments. They ask us to give the Insurance Act "a chance." But the Act is not worth a chance.

An Anti-National Scheme.

The fundamental fault of the scheme is that it is a sham. It is absolutely incapable of yielding the promised benefits; it will cost far more than it is worth in hard cash; while its inconveniences will grow and not diminish. We must have a better scheme. This is called a National Health Insurance Act. But it is nothing of the kind. Let us take the title words one by one.

If this were a "national" scheme every man, and every woman who is not a wife, would be brought into it. There would be no exemptions. The exemptions are already causing no end of trouble. For simplicity's sake, and for economy's sake, every man should come in as a contributor—as an insured person. If wealthy enough not to need the benefits, he need not apply for them. We do not exempt a man from the payment of Poor Rates because he is not likely to become a pauper, nor from the payment of Education Rates because he does not send his children to a council school. Even if he has no children to send to any school we still make him pay for education. Then why adopt the system of exemptions in a so-called national insurance scheme? Disputes as to who does and who does not come into this scheme are providing problems which no one can solve. It is ridiculous.

What it Will Lead To.

But that is not the worst of it. The scheme splits the nation into two parts—two classes—by the most arbitrary means. The honest wage-earner is brought in whether he desires it or not—he is numbered, ticketed, inspected, classified, not permitted to change his employment or residence without notification (it will soon be permission), and in a very few years, if there is no effective protest, he will be ordered when to play and sleep as well as work, what to eat and drink, and when and whom to marry. Nay, more; I believe that if our working classes are tame enough, and stick to their false "leaders" long enough, their insurance cards will not merely be made into tickets-of-leave, but workmen will not be permitted to appear in the public streets without a badge, worn in a conspicuous place, to indicate their occupation and social status. The badges—or they may be dog-collars—will be of different colours, so that a workman can be immediately recognised as a trade unionist, a free-thinker, or a beer drinker. A man who has ever been on strike, or failed to be civil to a foreman or a Government inspector, will have to wear a black badge. Make no mistake—that is what we are coming to, at our present rate of progress. It is exactly what those in authority are aiming at, and the so-called Insurance Act is the great essential step towards it. For this reason the upper and middle classes are left out of the scheme. And just as these classes are saved from the indignities, so are thousands of the very poorest and most helpless shut out from the benefits. Only the wage-earners—only the workers who sometimes go on strike and the domestic servants who are sometimes cheeky to their mistresses—only these are caught in the net of the new tyranny. And this is called a "national" scheme!

Worse Public Health.

Now consider the title word Health. This is no more a "health" scheme than it is a "national" one. Seven years ago the very statesmen who have passed this Act were shedding tears because a third of our working classes could not get, out of their earnings, enough food to keep themselves in proper physical efficiency. They said it would be cruel to add another halfpenny to the cost of living, and that a compulsory contribution out of wages for an old-age pension fund or anything of that kind was unthinkable. Now, when the cost of living is nearly 20 per cent. higher, contributions varying from 3d. up to 1s. a week are levied upon wages. Yes, a shilling a week! Tens of thousands of poor labourers are buying stamps for their cards—paying the joint contributions of both employer and workman under both the unemployment and sickness parts of the scheme, total 1s. a week—in order to stand a chance of getting work in the trades covered by both parts, while hundreds of thousands are paying 7d. a week out of the most meagre wages. The first essential of health is a sufficiency of food. This scheme means additional privation for millions of the poor—most of them have to pay 4d., many of them 6½d. and 7d., and not a few 1s. a week, while many casuals lose their employment. On top of it there is a six months' period during which no cash benefits are paid. In these six months the poor will be fleeced of more than £6,000,000. They will suffer still more hunger than hitherto; their health will be considerably worsened; and our well-fed statesmen have the brazen cheek to call this a Health Scheme!

And no Insurance at all.

However, we are assured that it is an Insurance Scheme—a business matter. Is it? Insurance means a contract. In return for a certain contribution, or premium, certain benefits are to be payable in certain circumstances. In this scheme neither the premiums nor the benefits are certain. In the first place, the contribution is taken compulsorily without the consent of the contributor. Here two points arise. This scheme has never been submitted to the electorate. And the contributions are not State taxes—they are not taxes due to the Crown. We have this much on the authority of the Government—that the payments demanded are insurance contributions and *not* State taxes. Secondly, the State not only takes this contribution—4d., or whatever it may be—but it empowers the Commissioners to *raise* the contribution or impose a levy at any future time without consulting the insured persons. Thirdly, the promised benefits are not guaranteed by the State. There is not a clause or a provision in the Act whereby the State guarantees the promised benefits. There is no guarantee that an insured man will get medical attendance when sick, and even if he pays separately for a doctor's certificate there is no guarantee that he will get the promised 10s. a week, or, if he is 50 years of age, the 7s., or if 60, the 6s. No; the three title words—"National Health Insurance"—are the most grossly false label ever put upon an Act of Parliament. The scheme is a sham and a fraud. In succeeding articles a *real* scheme will be outlined.

The Popular Song—"The Land of Someday." Words and Music—

PARENTS AND PICTURE PALACES.

A WORD WITH CINEMATOGRAPH SHAREHOLDERS.

Some few months ago we were the means of closing down certain secret cinematograph exhibitions, and it is only just to add that we were thanked by firms of repute for our action. Since that time we have had a constant flow of letters from parents, drawing our attention to what they consider very objectionable pictures. Perhaps this may account for the falling off in dividends of some of the companies. Anyhow, it is worth their consideration. One parent writes :—

> My children (girls, aged 12 and 14) have been in the habit for the past 12 months of visiting the local picture palace at least twice a week. Not feeling well, I took a few days' rest from business, and yesterday I accompanied the children to their favourite amusement. The result is that I have forbidden them to enter the doors again. I enclose you a synopsis of the picture I take objection to, and ask your opinion of it.

The picture the writer takes objection to is called "The Unwritten Law." Briefly, the story is as follows :—A husband, wife and son are recognised favourites of the variety stage. The wife makes the acquaintance of another man and a guilty alliance ensues. The matter becomes the topic of conversation in theatrical circles. Husband and betrayer meet and fight. Betrayer is killed and husband arrested. At trial he is quite calm and says he would do the same again under similar circumstances. He is acquitted of murder, and the foreman of the jury adopts the son *pro tem.*, and visits the father in prison. The father makes son swear that he will never take a wife.

Let *us* give a few examples of other pictures which have been brought to our notice :—

"An Arab Tragedy."

Tells of a merchant who casts off his wife and weds a slave girl, the discarded wife remaining in the household, and witnessing her rival become favourite.

"False or Fair?"

An art student shares his lunch with his model. The two chum together, and subsequently an irregular household is formed.

"The Ranch Girl's Mistake."

The girl falls in love with one of her father's ranchmen. Father forbids the marriage. Lovers elope. After marriage they keep a public-house. Father finds them out and fights with son-in-law.

"The Great Moment."

This is the story of a girl who becomes a mother without first of all becoming a wife.

The transformation from maidenly innocence to illicit child-bearing is plainly shown in every scene of this latter picture. A good many people may say that it forms an object lesson. So does an execution. But the cinematograph shows do not dare to illustrate an execution. We are not asking for a Censor of Pictures. We wish to prevent a censorship being rendered necessary.

For children such scenes are very hurtful.

A STUDY IN FUNERALS.

CALLOUS CYNICISM AND SLOPPY SENTIMENT.

A few days ago an old soldier named Henry Kemdge, of Kilburn, was buried in a pauper's grave. The War Office were asked to defray the cost of the funeral, but replied that they had no funds available for the purpose. The deceased had a son, a sergeant-major, serving in the Army out in India. At the time of Kemdge's death, nine boy scouts lost their lives while bathing in the sea. It was a sad accident, and none deplores the loss of these young lives more than we do, but we do wish to dissociate ourselves from all the sloppy, sentimental twaddle that was written on the occasion.

In the case of these boy scouts the Service supplied a gunboat to bring their little bodies to London. Quite right and proper. But what are we to think of one of the old Guards being buried in a pauper's grave? The fact of the matter is, they could get no more service out of Kemdge. It's the way we deal with all old soldiers. With the scouts it is different. We hope to get some service out of them—then when we have done with them, they can go to the devil for all we care—or to paupers' graves!

"TO THE DAY!"

HISTORICAL PRECEDENT FOR OUR POLICY.

Amongst the many interesting letters which our recent article upon the German question produced is the following :—

> It is very curious that the policy you very rightly advocate in John Bull was actually adopted by Lord Palmerston with regard to France in or about the year 1861, in the reign of Napoleon III. Then France was building numerous ironclads. We had to build likewise. Mr. Disraeli, then in opposition, called the ships, "the noble Lord's" (alluding to Palmerston) "bloated armaments." Palmerston was obliged to call upon Napoleon to ask "Against whom are you arming?" Napoleon climbed down at once and said, "Against no one," and the armaments ceased. Get one of your sub-editors to look up *Hansard* and *The Times* of that period. I think you will find it will support your arguments and policy wonderfully. I recollect it distinctly, and took a very lively interest in the question, both publicly and privately. In my opinion it is the only way to preserve peace. The German Emperor would have to climb down or fight—fight he dare not.

We have not yet had time to look up the Parliamentary debates of the period indicated, but we are aware that in 1861 Lord Palmerston drew special attention to the fact that the extent of the French dockyards was four times that of our own; whilst a casual reference to the annals of that period shows that France took the lead in naval construction and arranged to complete sixteen ironclad vessels in eighteen months, making in all twenty-seven ships which would be fit for sea in two years. A Member protested in very strong terms, because Palmerston provided money in his Estimates to keep pace with the French naval programme, but in defence of his policy "Pam." said, "One of the greatest evils the country had to guard against was that of having another nation superior to us at sea." Whereupon, the shrewd Disraeli urged that we should "acknowledge the superiority of France in military affairs, and come to some *friendly understanding* respecting our superiority in maritime affairs."

After all, that is what we are urging to-day.

A CHANCE OF A LIFETIME.

"PLEASANT AND ENTERTAINING."

One of our readers who recently answered an advertisement for a post received the following reply from the Guardian Bank, Ltd., Hastings House, Norfolk Street, Strand :—

> In reply to your application for appointment. The salary offered is £2 per week, 10 per cent. commission and travelling expenses.
>
> A smart man should earn, in the first year, at least £160, and make an automatic increase of £20 per annum afterwards.
>
> The business is a pleasant one, entailing as it does the meeting of persons of all classes and of travelling.
>
> Clients are invariably delighted to secure refunds of tax from the Government and will readily help to secure further business.
>
> We are prepared to give you a thorough tuition in the business, but prior to doing so, must ask for a cash deposit of £50, by way of security, such deposit to be returned to you, with 4 per cent. interest, on leaving our service.
>
> Please let us know as soon as possible if you are prepared to make this deposit, when agreement of service will be sent you for signature.
>
> Further particulars supplied if necessary.
>
> Yours faithfully,
>
> Income Tax Recovery Department
>
> (The Guardian Bank, Ltd.)
>
> (*Signed*) J. Dickinson, *Manager*.

Our correspondent wishes to know what we think of it. The answer is ——!

Given with every copy of this week's. MRS. BULL.

ARE YOU MAD?

THE DANGER OF MODERN SANITY TESTS.

BY OUR SPECIAL COMMISSIONER.

On an average I interview half-a-dozen "mad" people every week. When I say "mad people," I mean individuals who have been liberated from asylums, and who affirm that they never were mad. In every case the primary reason for paying a visit to Long Acre was to protest against what they claimed to be an act of injustice, and to seek JOHN BULL'S aid should they be "trapped" again. In no single instance have I found a patient who does not testify to the cruelty of the treatment. Now, I can hardly conceive that all these people are liars—and judging them as a whole I should say that they were far more sane than some people I know who have never been declared lunatics. But, of course, I am not a mental expert, and that brings me to the point of this article. Two experts in lunacy have recently made some notable statements.

Dr. Forbes Winslow, whom I know to be a genial and humane physician as well as an expert in mental diseases, makes the startling statement that "in three hundred years the world will be populated by lunatics." I do not doubt it, for what I hope to prove—that is, if the deductions of another expert in lunacy can be relied upon—is that the world at the present moment is inhabited by lunatics.

WHEN IS A PERSON INSANE?

According to the present lunacy laws a doctor must decide this point; therefore, it is interesting to have the opinion of another mental expert.

Dr. Bernard Hollander, in his book just presented to the public, states:—"There is no hard-and-fast lines separating sanity and insanity. If the early history of the patients be only carefully investigated, it will be found that eccentric acts on their part took place long before the outbreak of the disease."

Let us deal with these two points first. There is no standard to measure sanity. Here I agree with the learned author, but if his deductions in the second sentence were to be universally accepted no man of pronounced ideas would be safe. A few examples, by the way. I suppose Mr. Lloyd George is about the best-hated man amongst the moneyed classes—and at the present moment he is not particularly friendly with doctors. Now, is Mr. Lloyd George sane? He has been eccentric for years. I can bring undeniable proof. Has his eccentricity developed into insanity which culminated in the Insurance Act? How easy it would be to get him into a lunatic asylum if Dr. Hollander's quoted test were to become recognised. Then what about the Suffragettes? Surely all these ladies should be under lock and key! Mr. Winston Churchill also should be carefully watched. Some time ago he commenced to wear a peculiar-shaped pork-pie hat, and later he conducted a siege at Stepney.

To come to another sign, as stated by Dr. Hollander: "The difference between sanity and insanity consists in the degree of self-control exercised."

Then surely Mr. Bonar Law, Sir Edward Carson and Mr. F. E. Smith deserve to be consigned to a lunatic asylum for their advocacy of rebellion in Ulster!

But enough of these experts. The fact of the matter is, we depend too much on experts.

A "MADMAN" AT LARGE.

Living on the South Coast is a gentleman who effected his escape from the Hants County Asylum, after ten years' detention. For obvious reasons I do not publish his name and address. I have had full enquiries made and no insanity can be traced to any of his relations. At the time of his arrest—for it amounted to nothing else—he was living retired on a good pension, with his wife and family. Like a great many husbands, he had periodical tiffs with his wife, but nothing out of the common, and from here I will let the gentleman tell his own story:—

I was brought up before a single justice (Admiral Field) in an empty and closed court. I well recollect Admiral Field saying, "Let the poor fellow sit down." (I felt perfectly well). The Admiral asked me no questions at all, but I heard him say in an undertone to the superintendent, "Do you think he is insane?" And he in a low voice said, "Yes." My income was then £130 per annum. As a result of the proceedings, which took only a minute or two, I was incarcerated at Knowle County Asylum, Hants, on March 15th, 1901, being then as sane as at any time of my life. I remained there over ten years, until October, 1911. During this period I made every effort to regain my liberty by proper means, through the instrumentality of friends, letters to the authorities, etc., but without success. I found that unless the person responsible for putting me in the asylum was willing to help me get out I had no chance whatever of obtaining freedom.

A BOLD BID FOR FREEDOM.

In the circumstances, I determined to regain my own liberty being sick and tired of living on in the hope of assistance from others. After making careful preparations I escaped from my bedroom window by moving the sash, and dropped to the ground and got away in the darkness in the early evening of October 18th, 1911. Through my knowledge of the stars in navigation, I went straight across country to a spot I had fixed upon, spent the night at Portsmouth and went to London next morning, where I remained for the 14 days to protect myself from recapture under the Lunacy Act, 1890. This point of law I only picked up during the latter part of my detention. Immediately the 14 days were up I returned to my own neighbourhood. No effort whatever so far as I know has been made to recommit me to an asylum. On the contrary, since my return I have been treated by people in the town in every respect with consideration as an obviously sane man, although I know I am no saner now than at any previous time of my life. I may say I am working my own banking account at the Capital and Counties Bank, cashing my own pension papers, dealing in house property, etc. I mention these matters to show that in all respects I am treated as sane. My wife will not live with me, but puts me to a great deal of expense and inconvenience, as I endeavour to do my duty by supporting her, although she is no wife to me. She is living in one of my houses with an allowance of 15s. per week from me, but will not let me come near the place. I am naturally of a peaceful disposition, and as I am fairly comfortably off in comparison with my station in life, I let things go along quietly. During my absence my wife collected the rents of my few small houses and took my pension under the regulations applicable to lunatic pensioners, less a charge of about 8s. 9d. a week, which was deducted by the Government and paid, I believe, to the asylum authorities. I cannot get to know definitely who is responsible for my incarceration.

I got no assistance whatever from the asylum visitors or from anyone else with regard to my case. Visiting justices never appeared to me to be looking out for sane persons. I was never asked any questions tending to show a desire in the mind of the questioner to discover whether I was sane or otherwise. I was never asked whether I had any complaint to make. The line taken seemed to be—the more lunatics the merrier. I applied from time to time to each successive Home Secretary and the Lunacy Commissioners and visiting guardians repeatedly, but received only stereotyped official answers.

A POSER FOR THE "EXPERTS."

If I am now sane (and I am recognised as such) and was once insane, as certified, there must have been a time when I regained my sanity. It would be singular if this was at the moment I effected my escape. I do not, however, admit that I was ever at any time anything but quite sane.

I feel entitled to be compensated not so much for myself personally, but because my sons were deprived of their first guardian during the most important period of their lives. When I was put away my sons' ages ranged from 16 to 6. If I had had my liberty these boys could have been given a decent start in life, which I had the means to give them. As it is, two have been forced to emigrate, not having been taught any trade or profession. Another is a marine store dealer, another a fitter.

I think I am right in saying that, of the thousands of persons who have been in Knowle Asylum as lunatics, there is no case of a person having escaped under circumstances even remotely similar to mine.

Now I have my eye upon this particular "madman," and I defy the authorities to touch him! For every medical man who certifies him insane, I will get half-a-dozen to certify him sane. So much for expert advice But what a life! No man or woman is safe unless backed by influential people.

The Gentle Art of Hubby-Training—

THE MURDERING MULLAH.

A JOB BRITAIN MUST SHIRK NO LONGER—KITCHENER'S OPPORTUNITY.

BY B. SIMMONS, JUN.

If ever there was an example of weakness in dealing with a critical situation, it is to be found in Somaliland at the present day, where the activity of the Mullah is again giving cause for grave alarm. For over a dozen years a weak Britain has permitted this murdering fanatic to over run that which we claim as our own Protectorate, and to slaughter by hundreds natives whom we had promised to protect. Every now and again, in a half-hearted fashion, we have sent a totally inadequate expedition against this murderer, but in each case the result has been the same—our abject and humble withdrawal. The record of our Somaliland muddle reads somewhat as follows:—

1898.—Appearance of the Mullah.

1899.—Thousands of Dervishes join him. Great Britain discusses action.

1900.—Mullah's forces grow stronger. Britain again discusses action.

1901.—He advances. We attack his force with a few men, and he escapes.

1902.—Another British expedition tried. Mullah checks Col. Swayne at Erigo.

1903.—General Manning advances with a small force. Major Gough and Col. Plunkett defeated.

1903 (later).—Britain abandons campaign.

1904-1911.—Continuous raids by Mullah. Various reports of his victories over friendlies, defeats by them and presumed death.

1912.—Mullah with 10,000 men captures Bohotle, the second largest town in the Protectorate. Great slaughter of men, women and children. Great Britain inactive.

Now our honour as a nation demands the ending of this Mullah muddle, and there are only two things that can be done. Either we must admit that Britain, the presumably mighty, is frightened to death of an African fanatic, and therefore abandon our Protectorate entirely and leave the unfortunate friendlies to a hideous fate, or we must make up our mind onceand for all and smash the Mullah.

It may need 30,000 men and Lord Kitchener to do it, but it would be a job well done. We must not let our greatest soldier, well versed in Dervish warfare, rust in inactivity while there is work to do. Kitchener is the man who can save our Somaliland Protectorate, and restore peace to it. Our honour as a nation demands action.

THE GERMAN SPY SCARE.

"WHO HUNG THE MONKEY?"

[COMMUNICATED.]

The action of the German authorities over the recent spy scare reminds one of the *true* story of the action taken by the Old Hartlepool fishermen during the French War.

The spy scare was then fully developed on the English coast, and everybody was at fever heat.

A strange vessel was during a gale wrecked in Hartlepool Bay, and, as usual on such occasions, all turned out to see what they could pick up. During the day, a poor half-drowned monkey was washed ashore, and as soon as it reached land, stood up and began to chatter. The fishermen congregated, held a conclave, and decided that the intruder was no less than a French spy.

They captured the monkey and carried it in chains up to the town hall, where it was arraigned before the magistrate, who decided at once that as it could not speak English it was a French spy, and there and then condemned it to be hanged, the execution being duly carried out! Woe betide the individual who in Hartlepool to-day asks the question "Who hung the monkey for a French spy?"

Is not the action of the German authorities about on a par with that of the Hartlepool fishermen years ago?

THE TRAFFIC IN GIRLS.

BY OUR SPECIAL COMMISSIONER.

In my articles entitled "Behind the Veil of London Life," I stated that the so-called White Slave Traffic Bill before Parliament was worse than useless. I did not say why the Bill was useless, but I do so now. It was framed by people who knew nothing whatever of the subject. Some three years ago I spent six weeks investigating London's massage establishments, and I know—well, I know what I know. The "Oldest Profession in the World" and "the White Slave Traffic" are as distinct as the poles. A person may know all about the former, as no doubt many Members of Parliament do; but yet know nothing of the latter. Then how can they legislate for it? They get their knowledge from the police! Bah! The police as a body are the very last people in the world we should take information from on these subjects. If we want to get first-hand knowledge as to the traffic in girls, we must mix with the "bullies" and procurers—male and female. We must actually bargain for the young flesh and blood. This I have done, and my testimony was always at the disposal of the authorities, but they did not want it. They preferred to shut their eyes; and so we have a bogus Bill that will be worse than useless.

Some few days ago I received a visit from Mr. W. N. Willis, who was for sixteen years a member of the Australian Parliament. Mr. Willis has made the White Slave Traffic a study for many years. He has travelled in almost every country in the world, and investigated the matter from almost every aspect; the result has been a book that is brutal in its outspokenness.

It appears that when Mr. Willis presented his manuscript to the publisher, it was suggested that a second writer should be engaged—presumably to tone down the Australian's fire. The co-writer was duly found, and she happened to be a woman. And what a broad-minded woman! I venture to suggest that no more worthy co-worker could have been found for Mr. Willis than Mrs. Archibald Mackridy, the authoress of "The Soul Market." It is true that she is somewhat too generous in dealing out flattery to the Salvation Army; but no matter. Her general deductions are both sound and bold; as bold, indeed, as have ever been uttered by woman. She says that she and her collaborator are not aiming at anything so foolish as the abolition of illicit intercourse, but think it will be modified as soon as we have sense to recognise that we must organise and arrange that particular trade. We must protect our young, and see that no woman becomes a hireling because she has no friends, and because she is poor, or ill-used, or homeless.

This means that we must have a "Red Light" district. By doing this we should protect our women and children, and we should also be protecting the poor "slaves," who are more sinned against than sinning.

Mrs. Mackridy is a brave woman!

VIRTUE TRIUMPHANT.

[*The bold, bad heroine of the theatre has been ousted from favour by the good and gentle woman.*—DAILY PAPER.]

Budding dramatist, 'ware lest a devil-may-care
Young person appear in your play
Whose morals are loose, who exclaims "What the deuce!"
And whose laughter is mocking and gay.
If you make her a minx who backs gee-gees, and drinks;
And whose past is inclined to be shady,
Your chance of success will be very much less
Than it would be if she were a *lady*.

Call her Mary or Kate, let her style be sedate,
Her habiliments plain but becoming—
An azure-eyed blonde who is frightfully fond
Of Sunday-school teaching and slumming.
If she's modest and mild, with the heart of a child,
Then your heroine's likely to capture
The public to-day, and quite possibly they
Will receive her with absolute rapture.

F. J. WHITMARSH.

See this week's MRS. BULL. Buy it To-day. One Penny.

GIVING THE GAME AWAY.

THE BRAINLESS BOARD'S COMMITTEE FALLS OUT—WITH THE USUAL RESULT.

By a Shipping Expert.

"Whom the gods wish to destroy they first drive mad." If this tag is correct, there is no doubt that, judging from the Report of the Board of Trade's Advisory Committee on Merchant Shipping, its Marine Department is about to cease to exist. As a compendium of useless recommendations and an exhibition of utter ignorance it is hard to equal. If, however, its object is to throw dust in the eyes of the public, and tide over, by bluff, the incompetence, the ignorance and culpable negligence of Sir Walter Howell and his entire staff, it is a bold and well-thought-out attempt.

It is evident that no improvement as regards the absurdly inadequate life-saving appliances on board merchantships can result from its recommendations. But then, what would anybody outside of Whitehall expect from a Committee packed by the representatives of shipowners, shipbuilders and their allies? By the way, why has Mr. A. M. Carlisle been left off this new Committee? Is it because of the view he expressed at the Inquiry that he would oppose any attempt to send a vessel to sea short of life-saving appliances—an attitude which would embarrass the evident desire of the other members and the Board of Trade to do as little as possible in this direction, but to endeavour instead to tide over the awakening of the travelling public to the utter disregard of precautions for their safety by the owners and the Board? I repeat John Bull's previous question, "What little game are Mr. Buxton and his advisers up to?" Some reply is urgently demanded. There was already in existence a permanent Advisory Committee when the second and even more curious body was created.

Reading Between the Lines.

Reading between the lines, there has evidently been a nice little quarrel among the members of the Advisory Committee. Those claiming to voice the demands of Labour, and the representatives of the officers and engineers have not allowed the ship-owning interests to ride roughshod over them. Hence, a few—a very few—practical suggestions contained in the various reservations which leaven the mass of piffle dished up between the blue covers.

Captain Hampson has, like Mr. Carlisle, upset the Chairman, Mr. Norman Hill (*solicitor for the White Star Line and most of the Liverpool shipowners*), and we see throughout Mr. Hill's remarks evidence of the same little dispute as took place over Mr. Carlisle's testimony at the Inquiry—the whole of the practical men of the Committee who have no axes to grind object to the Report.

In the end, the Committee, generally speaking, agree to alter nothing, adhering to the previous Report of July, 1911, in which not more but fewer boats were actually recommended. They still, apparently, believe in tonnage scale as the best criterion for fixing the number. They, however, recommend rafts, etc., for all on board, though these may, or may not, be of use, as until and unless really practical and efficient rafts are designed and insisted upon they may be dismissed as mere death-traps.

The Sub-Committee on Boats, having practical men on it, has condemned the Board's Rules and Regulations as regards the capacity of the boats, and has confirmed what John Bull stated—viz., that they would not carry within 25 per cent. of the number for which the Board in its wisdom had passed them.

The most important "reservations" are those of Captain Hampson, who, as I have already said, has for his outspokenness received in a special note the castigation of the Chairman. Captain Hampson states that "from the manner in which the Report is drawn it will be very difficult to act upon it, or take effective steps towards reforms in connection with safety of life at sea which are urgently demanded," and pleads for more men, efficiently trained to handle boats.

Captain Hampson also asks for practical surveyors, thus agreeing with this paper's contention that the whole present staff should be dispensed with, though if those officials who are at present there really did their duty matters would be different.

A great point is raised in this reservation to the Report when it is stated that undue importance is given to the care of passenger vessels and little notice taken of crews' safety on board "tramps," and he manfully strikes a fatal blow at the whole Report, which he says is largely based on the statistics adduced by the Board showing that hitherto there has been great immunity from loss of life at sea, and coldly reminds the whitewashers of the appalling fact that "the finest ship in the British Mercantile Marine is now lying at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean, carrying with her 1,490 lives. No statistics of the Board of Trade can disprove or minimise this terrible lesson, showing that any other vessel may meet this fate." He concludes by stating that in his opinion the Report is "hopelessly inadequate," and it is not surprising that for this candour he is soundly slated by the Chairman.

The other reservation of the Report worth notice is that by Mr. Trevisa Clarke, who may or may not be voicing his own ideas—suffice it to say that I think I have seen some of his suggestions before. At any rate, he puts forward the only absolutely practical suggestion for lowering boats off a disabled vessel's decks, namely, by means of electric cranes fitted on the centre of the top deck, with a sufficient range to lift out the boats from either side in the case of a list, and put them overboard where safest.

Throughout the Report there is a tendency to make out that the Board of Trade surveyors are overworked; no one who has seen them perform their duties can be other than staggered at this assertion.

The Permanent Officials' Trick.

Although the Report is drawn up by the Advisory Committee on which the President of the Board has been so eager to throw all responsibility, I hear on the very best authority that some of the permanent officials treat the Committee with utter disdain—they have themselves drawn up a Report and recommendation which they propose to place before the Board—may I ask where they will address the Speaker of the Irish Parliament?—and the shipowners.

So here we see the end of the farce. The Board appoints its Advisory Committee and they report; they then appoint the Lifeboats' Committee (which has not yet reported), then, behind the backs of their own nominees, *the permanent officials are drawing up their own Rules and Regulations*, which they propose to place direct before the shipowners, and which they expect to be accepted by them—indeed, in view of this extraordinary example of the Board's pandering to the shipowning interests, it is not surprising to read that they anticipate these hole and corner "rules" to be "well received on the whole by shipowners."

The Committee advise no alteration in the excursion steamers' life-saving appliances; so I presume the Board will let these vessels still go to sea with boat accommodation for less than one-third of the passengers they are licensed to carry. They doubtless—following their usual policy—prefer to sit down and wait until a boat carrying perhaps 1,200 people, is sunk while some distance from land.

Mr. Bottomley asked for and was promised a Return of all vessels with Board of Trade Passenger Certificates, with the number they are licensed to carry, and the number and capacity of boats, etc. At the end of this Report appears a table giving *some* of these details—the Board carefully publishes particulars of foreign-going vessels only, and ignores the excursion steamers. Further, it is a most misleading table, couched in a long, befogging rigmarole.

However, the table shows a fearful shortage of boat accommodation on all the large liners, etc., but this shortage is comparatively nothing to what would have been disclosed had the Board been straightforward. There would, however, have been such an outcry throughout the country that the whole Marine Staff would have had to clear out.

A great point is being made of the fact that trouble will be caused in effectively fitting large steamers with lifeboat accommodation for all on board. This, however, is only a shipowners' and shipbuilders' excuse, as means and methods to alter the vessels could soon be found.

All women, young or old, married or single, need—

"L'AFFAIRE MAHIEU."

A WORD WITH THE GUERNSEY PRESS.

The *Guernsey Evening Press* "in the main" agrees with our conclusions in *L'Affaire Mahieu*, but thinks we "go astray in suggesting that the case was decided on grounds that were not stated in court." This was not our suggestion at all; it was based on enquiries which the *Guernsey Star* said it made. Briefly, the *Star* alleged that it was something the magistrates and the prosecution knew about Mahieu, not disclosed in court, which influenced the banishment of this man and his wife, ostensibly because she had become ill and he could not pay the paltry expenses the States had incurred for her maintenance in hospital. Indeed, the *Press* admits that the *Star* pleaded (it asserted after enquiry from officials) that Mahieu was not deserving of sympathy "for reasons which the *Star* did not give." "What these reasons may be," the *Press* continues, "we do not know."

Exactly. There is the mystery. Why does the *Star* pretend that if these reasons had been known to us, as they were known to the prosecution and the magistrates, there would have been no reason for our sympathy? Our sympathy matters infinitely less to Mahieu than right and justice matter to the people of Guernsey. For the sake of the argument we will admit any supposition the *Star* pleases in its position of advocate for the banishing magistrates and the prosecution, backed up by H.M. Comptroller. We will even suppose that Mahieu murdered his grandmother, or that he got drunk every night in the week. But the charge against him was that he had failed to support his sick wife, and if the prosecution were convinced (still for the sake of argument) that he ought to be banished because he murdered his grandmother, or because he got drunk every night, whether in fact the charge against him failed in law and justice or not, they ought to have given him a chance of meeting the allegation, and not allow their minds and the minds of the Court to be surreptitiously influenced against him by some dark, mysterious thing of which they breathed not a word during the whole of the proceedings.

All said, the *Star* may be wrong. In endeavouring to find an explanation for an iniquitous sentence of expulsion—a sentence which it does not, cannot justify, and which we held and still hold to be a blot on the Union Jack—and failing to find it in the charge itself, it may have somewhat wildly rushed to the one it offers, supported by some official who would have better employed himself in keeping his tongue between his teeth. Why has the *Star* had nothing to say to our challenge? Why are the prosecution so silent? We can tell our readers. It is because, whether the mystery-hinting of our contemporary is right or wrong, the prosecution are wiser than their anxious apologist and advocate. On the supposition that the *Star* is right, the case against the sentence is blacker; on the supposition that it is wrong, the sentence remains without any defence at all.

Our contemporary will please understand us. We make no reflection on its *bona fides*. We are glad, indeed, to have set the Press of the Channel Islands thinking about their antiquated laws and the crooked sense of justice inherent in them. But the *Star* should not have made a mystery about its discovery. It is of no use pretending to explain if you mean to mystify. You cannot clarify things by making them muddy. Except for that one word "pleaded," the position of the *Star* could not be put better than it is put by the *Press*. Let us quote the curious sentence again. It "pleaded that the persons concerned were not deserving of sympathy for reasons which the *Star* did not give. What those reasons may be we do not know." Well, we suggest the *Press* send a reporter to the *Star* to get to know, or pokes its own nose into *L'Affaire Mahieu* for the enlightenment of its readers, and incidentally of ourselves. Surely it is not afraid of cross-examining the Bailiff and the Attorney-General, or pumping H.M. Comptroller? It is worth while. A Mahieu case happened yesterday. It may happen again to-day or to-morrow.

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

SEE PAGE ii. OF COVER.

A LAMENTATION FROM LANDOUR.

TOMMY'S TROUBLES WITH HIS "TOMMY."

At Landour, in India, is situated a convalescent depôt for military invalids. Though one of the first essentials to the building up of an invalid is, of course, an abundant supply of good, wholesome food, properly cooked, he says that the authorities allow the most vile rations to be issued to the troops. The bread, according to taste and appearance, is composed of flour and water only, and is served out to the depôt with its crust burnt and the inner portion like a lump of putty. The result is, that in the great majority of cases the men throw it away and buy a fresh supply out of their own pockets. The meat also is either too tough to eat, or else cooked very badly; it therefore follows the bread over the hillside, or is given to the native sweepers. As an illustration of how the men regard the food, our correspondent tells us of two of them leaving the cookshop with a concoction called "stewed cheese and onions." Suddenly one threw his away, the plate as well. "What's up?" asked the other; "I can understand you throwing the stew away; why the plate?" "Oh, the plate is ruined," laconically replied his chum.

It is asserted that complaints to those responsible have been ignored, and the men openly state that the reason for this official apathy is because those who could remedy the state of things, and won't, are in the swim, and get their share of the amount stolen by using such "food."

BABIES AND KINGSTON GUARDIANS.

Will the bachelor Bishop of London, so anxious for the manufacture of babies by other people, kindly reprove the Kingston Board of Guardians, in his best episcopal manner? They have been advertising for a married couple as master and matron willing to guarantee no encumbrances; at least a writer in a Poor Law service journal says so. Evidently babies are encumbrances from the Guardians' point of view, whatever they may be from that of the Bishop, who has not had any. What he should do, we think, is to demonstrate to the master and matron that they should have their quiver full—even if they have to lose their jobs as a consequence!

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE "TITANIC" INQUIRY.

(AND IN ANTICIPATION OF OTHER INQUIRIES IN THE FUTURE.)

So, you've got it all over, good gentlemen all?
(I hope I am right thus you dubbing.)
You have washed all the linen, the great and the small,
And now, what's the result of your scrubbing?
"He was going too fast?" Ah, that's splendid, indeed—
And it's safe, too, now Death has transhipped him,
To censure the act of the hardy old steed,
And not that of the drivers who whipped him!

And no doubt you are right, my wise gentlemen all
(And I hope *I'm* right, too, thus you naming),
So we'll carefully lock up the stable and stall—
The mare being gone, past reclaiming.
But, whatever we do and wherever we are,
We'll avoid giving any attention
To the other mares' stables with doors wide ajar,
For it's foolish to talk of Prevention.

There's the workshop that's ninety feet up in the air;
There's the lack of escape, and the celluloid flare;
There's the overworked signalman nodding with sleep;
There's the fellow who smokes in the mine a mile deep;
There's the cattle conveying disease o'er the land;
There's the motor-car striking us dead where we stand;
There's the play-house of wood, with the curtain that's "fireproof,"
For all these and for more, see the Press—which is "liar-proof."
But we'll wait till Disaster attracts our attention,
And whatever we do, don't let's talk of Prevention!

WILLIE WANGLE.

MRS. BULL. Tuesdays. One Penny. The ideal Home journal.

THE COCKPIT OF EUROPE.

HOW THE MAP OF EUROPE WILL BE REVISED.

By Herbert Vivian.

I know that there is a sullen indifference in this country about anything that goes on in remote parts of Europe, and that I run the risk of becoming a bore if I persist in writing about affairs which happen to interest me specially. At the same time, I venture to insist that the Balkan States are fascinatingly full of surprises, and that they may at any moment initiate evil in which everybody will be forced to take an interest, for none of us except the smallest of little Englanders can afford to neglect forthcoming changes in the map of Europe.

John Bull was the first paper to announce that the Albanians would soon be at Uskub, and now they have not only occupied that important town, but marched a very long way in the direction of Salonika. Of course there are the usual rumours that they have been pacified by Turkish promises, but, even if there be a vestige of truth in that, the promises will soon be broken, and the Albanians will continue to fight for their independence. If they have retreated temporarily, they have probably received fair promises from the Austrian Government, and I need not enlarge upon the value of such promises.

Again, John Bull was the only journal which hinted at the possibility of a restoration of the Sultan Abdul Hamid, and now we find that all sorts of people, notably the Albanians and the Young Turks, both of whom were mainly responsible for his deposition, are contemplating the idea of undoing their own work. The fact is, Abdul Hamid was, with all his faults, one of the greatest statesmen and diplomatists of the age. It was only by his astuteness that his empire was able to weather all the storms which followed the war with Russia. The attempt at Parliamentary government has proved a hideous failure, elections have been engineered with the most cynical effrontery, and pecuniary corruption has everywhere been the order of the day. I am not sure that it is not too late for anyone, even for so great a genius as Abdul Hamid, to save the Turkish Empire in Europe.

Assuming that this chance is denied them, we must now consider the lines of possible partition. The greatest power in that part of the world is Austria, but no one wants her to be allowed to dominate the peninsula. She has, of course, carried on an active propaganda in Albania for a long time, inundating the whole district with her political and religious missionaries. But the Albanians are fine fighters, full of ambition for independence, and armies from Vienna would encounter quite as many difficulties as any armies which have been sent from Constantinople. Moreover, there has long been an Italian propaganda in the same district, and Italy, though not of much use as a fighting force, is full of jealousy for Austria, and can at any time create unpleasantness. Then there is Bulgaria, which now possesses a truly formidable army and can rely upon the support of Russia, which tried to give her the greater part of Macedonia by the Treaty of San Stefano. Servia is now negligible, owing chiefly to the corruption and discredit which have been brought upon her by her present dynasty. She will make noisy demonstrations in the streets of Belgrade, Austrian flags may be burned in public, but her enemies will sleep very peacefully.

The only remaining factor is Montenegro, and observers will do well to realise that, in spite of her restricted territory, she is inhabited by a nation of heroes who have held their own against the Turks for hundreds of years. Her Sovereign is the greatest of Balkan diplomatists, and would be hailed rapturously as the ideal ruler of Servian-speaking lands. Unfortunately Sir Edward Grey is as ignorant of this as he is of most other foreign affairs, but it is to be hoped that he may receive salutary hints during the forthcoming visit of the Russian Premier to England.

My solution of the whole difficulty would be to internationalise Constantinople, to give Bulgaria an outlet on the Ægean, to constitute Albania an independent State under the protection of the Powers, and to extend the territory of Montenegro all over the Vilayét of Kossovo. Of course this would not be popular in Austria, but she might find compensation in an attempt to annex Servia.

HOLLOW HOLIDAYS.

By "Disillusioned."

I have weighed holidays in the balance, and found them wanting. Their delights are a delusion. Their pleasures are a snare. Their more fitting title would be "hollow days," for they are full of emptiness. When the Spring casts its malign influence upon us and lightly turns our thoughts to love, it fills our minds with foolish fancies and vain visions of our recurring summer holidays. Forgetting past experiences, we look forward with eager anticipations to joys that are never realised. We are blind to the fact that "man never is, but always to be, blessed." We see ourselves disporting by the sea, scouring the country on our bicycles, or engaged in some other equally absurd pursuit; and on the strength of these imagined delights we commence to pinch and save and plot and plan, to the end that we may—return to work poorer in purse, shorter in temper, and even more disgusted with our daily occupation than we were before.

The average City youth commences to pay for his holidays (?) long before they begin. There is that distressing interview with his tailor concerning a summer suit, without which the bare idea of a vacation would seem a mockery. Then he is required to get his work "right up-to-date"—so as to reduce to a minimum the inconvenience entailed by his absence. The prospect of summer idleness supports him in these trials, and the fatal day, preceded by a sleepless night, at last arrives and finds him, in the majority of cases, speeding (more or less, according to the railway he travels by) towards the coast.

He now realises more keenly than at any other time in the twelve months the enormously important part the weather plays in the scheme of things—more especially in *his* scheme of things. A wet week may transform his glowing dream to a nightmare of damp wretchedness. A too ardent sun may so disfigure his most prominent feature that he stands no chance in the running with the summer girls. In short, he finds his happiness is in the callous hands of the Clerk of the Weather.

Obviously, any plan of enjoyment that depends for its success on genial climatic conditions is, in this country, in nine cases out of ten, foredoomed to failure. I have learned this, to my bitter cost. Henceforth, I abjure holidays in the ordinary meaning of the word. From this time forward behold me hugging work to my bosom, serene in the knowledge that never again shall I have to face the accumulated tasks that were wont to confront me on my annual return from the seaside. From now onwards let my occasional relaxation be a "week-end," that refreshes but does not bore, and which may be taken when the weather is at its best, no matter what may be the nominal season of the year.

PITY THE POOR EDITOR.

A GEM FROM OUR LETTER BAG.

A. K. (Walthamstow) complains about a doctor, and says:—"I had Pains up the Back and my Knees he gave me some medician he said I got Feaver coming on. He gave me some Port Wine he said try and get eggs and milk. I got two eggs off the Butcher but the milk I could not take he said wull our you getting on. I said nearly Dead so he took me to the surgery and gave me some Muck I am shore he did not no want he was making up. I had it down and then it was up again then I was so week I lay down. I was sent for by the Chief Steward" (no wonder!) "I was taken in front of the Doctor and he said our are your Bouls. I said I have had nothing inside them for a forthnight then he said you must have castor oil and I refused so he said I done with you. Their was another case he had face ache. The Doctor made attempt to take the Bad tooth out brok too good one and a Bad tooth, He tie a Piec a Rag all round it and never wash it Then thur was a Dredful accudent . . . he was taken to the Doctor and He blaster he head up with sticking Blaster. This Doctor never look at your Tongue and never Feel your pulps." This is almost worthy of Eugenics!

An absorbing article—"Is Your Birthday in September?"—

A SCOTCH MURDER TRIAL.

IS OSCAR SLATER INNOCENT?

Somewhat late in the day, Sir Conan Doyle makes out an able argument in proof of a miscarriage of justice in the case of Oscar Slater. Three years ago Slater was condemned to death for the murder of a rich old woman in Glasgow, after a trial in which nine of the jury voted for "guilty," five for "not proven," and one for "not guilty." Twenty thousand people signed a petition for reprieve, and this was granted two days before the date fixed for execution. The evidence of the prosecution rested on identification by witnesses who said Slater was the man they saw leave the old woman's flat in the dusk, and on the fact that he had pawned a brooch stated to be identical with one known to have been in the possession of the dead woman. Though there was some £3,000 worth of jewellery in the house, the brooch was the only article missing; and Sir Conan Doyle, after pointing out that the one which Slater had pawned could not have been his victim's because he had been putting it in and out of pawn for years before the date of the murder, riddles the identification witnesses with their own contradictions. As to the fact that Slater went away to New York with his mistress under a false name on the day the police raided his lodgings and found the pawn-ticket for the brooch, it is asserted that he had arranged to leave Glasgow before the murder, and his explanation was, and is, that he went away, not to escape from the consequences of his crime, but to hide from his wife.

In saying that the case Sir Conan Doyle makes out for a miscarriage of justice is an able one, we do not mean it is new, or that it proves Slater's innocence. Probably it was more or less the ground on which he was reprieved. Admittedly he is a bad lot, and probably because he was a bad lot his counsel did not put him in the box. But a man may be a bad lot without being bad enough to commit murder; and one would have thought that, counsel or no counsel, an innocent man would have insisted on going into the witness-box to support his own witnesses, who swore he was at home on the night of the crime. Though there was a risk of the jury being prejudiced against him, the courage of innocence is not less than that of guilt, and on the whole we think that, taking the case as it was presented for Slater, counsel made a mistake if he advised Slater not to go into the box, always supposing his client desired to do so. As for Sir Conan Doyle's plea that Slater had arranged to go away before the murder, the answer is that, as this must have been a preconceived crime, he might have pre-arranged his flight to suit his purposes.

Looking at the case as a whole, in the light of the evidence for the prosecution, leaving the defence aside altogether, we are not in doubt at all that the charge is "not proven." If the case had been tried before an English jury we should have said it was not proven exactly in the sense in which every case of the kind is admitted by the Home Office to stand when the accused is sentenced to death and afterwards reprieved. But the Slater case was tried under Scotch law; therefore it seems to us not proven in quite another and special sense, because "not proven" is a verdict which a Scotch jury is entitled to give when there is not enough evidence to prove guilt, and, on the other hand, not enough evidence to prove innocence.

We are not concerned to ask who or what has moved Sir Conan Doyle to issue his critical examination of the Slater case now. If it is not a case for a Free Pardon by the Crown, it is nothing. No useful purpose is served by stickling for what may be called logical justice, or even logical mercy in these matters. The question is, Was Slater reprieved three years ago, as we suggest, because the Crown gave critical weight to the defence as Sir Conan Doyle gives it now? If so, the further question arises, Does it, as it stands, establish Slater's right to a Free Pardon? Candidly, we do not think it does. But it is never too late for new evidence in a claim to justice. Now that the case is brought up again, we trust that the Home Office will give every opportunity to Slater to put his solicitors on any further lines of enquiry by which he seeks to establish his innocence.

HUMAN DOCUMENT.—CCIX.

[In this column, every week, we publish particulars of some human derelict whose case, after full investigation, we are able to recommend to the charity of our readers. We are happy to say that in this way we have already been the means of bringing comfort into many a wretched home. All amounts subscribed are duly acknowledged, and no deduction of any kind is made by us.]

A CONSUMPTIVE FATHER'S TERRIBLE POSITION.

We desire to bring before the notice of our readers a most pitiful case—that of a man and wife with seven little children, an eighth being expected from day to day. The father is consumptive, and all the work he can get is taking goods to the City once or twice a week. By this means he earns a shilling or ninepence. The mother obtains employment now and then as charwoman, but more often has to stand at the street corners selling flowers, the scanty sums thus earned being all it is possible to obtain to support themselves and their children. The eldest, a girl, is 13; the others 10, 7, 5, 2, and twins aged 3. Two of the youngest are laid up with whooping cough. The family is in arrears with three weeks' rent (at 6s. 6d.), and if the money is not forthcoming at once will lose what little they possess and be without a roof. We hope that the bringing before the charitable public of this very sad and deserving case will result in the alleviation of the family's misery.

We have received the following amounts, which we have duly forwarded to the subjects of the "Human Documents" named:

CCVII.—"Leander," 21s.; "Wray," 2s. 6d.; T. L., 5s.; W. S., 2s.; A. J. J., 1s.; "Fipp," 1s.; "Admirer," 2s. 6d.; H. J. R., 3s. 6d.; "Norrie and Marjorie," 1s. 6d.; "Telephone House," 1s.; E. V. H., 2s.; F. and H., 1s. 1d.; "Tunbridge Wells," 2s. 6d.; K. and G., 3s. 6d.; G. C. R., 10s.; "199," 2s. 6d.; S. H., 3s.; G. B., 2s.; "Josereno," 1s.; "Sympathetic," 4s.; "Haddington," 2s. 6d.; "A Few in Sympathy," 7s.; J. B. M., 1s.; J. P. C., 2s. 6d.; "Inky," 10s.; "Cockney Swaddie," 1s.; F. J., 1s.; "Grocer," 5s.; M. J. F., 5s.; "Bristol Clerk," 4s. 6d.; "Little Pilper," 2s.; "Walter," 5s.; "Army Reservist," 5s.; "A Fellow Consumptive," 20s.; A. A., 5s.; G. E. M., 5s.; Evelyn Celia, 1s.; "Wal. Sall," 6d.; M. R. A. B., 1s. 6d.; P. O. F., 1s. 6d.; E. B., A. and E. D., 12s.; D. P., 1s.; K. M., 4s.; D. M. O., 1s.; L. W., 5s. 6d.; M. F., 2s.; J. L., 1s.; E. B., 5s.; G. T. B., 10s.; "Is," 6d.; "In Memory of another Soldier," 2s.; C. M., 20s.

CCVIII.—A. M., 2s. 6d.

OUR COLLECTING BOXES.

By the kindness of many of our readers we are enabled to add to our "Human Document" fund by means of collecting boxes, which they are good enough to place on their premises. We shall be glad to hear from others willing to assist in this work

LONDON.—Mr. B. Barnett, 266, Devons Road, Bow, ½d.; Messrs. Marrden and Co., 108, Bow Road, E., 1s. 0½d.; Messrs. Colwin and Co., 826, Romford Road, E., 2d.; Mr. E. C. Gilforth, King's Arms, 357, Cable Street, Stepney, 1s.; Mr. A. E. Gilbert, City Arms, Devons Road, Bow, 1s. 9d.; Mr. A. Johnson, Distillers' Arms, 28, Hancock Road, Bromley, 2s. 3d.; Messrs. Harley, 48, Brompton Road, S.W., 6d.; Messrs. G. Beaunor and Co., 5, Southampton Row, W.C., 9½d.; Mr. J. Money, 28, Pimlico Road, S.W., 6d.; Mr. A. J. Blowes, The Colville, King's Road, Chelsea, 1s. 3d.; Mr. E. Butt, The Rose, Fulham Road, S.W., 3s.; Mr. A. Heep, The Denbigh Arms, Denbigh Place, S.W., 8½d.; Mr. E. H. Gilbert, George Canning, Effra Road, Brixton, 10d.; "Anonymous," 3½d.; Mr. G. Saunders, 54, Curtain Road, E.C., 4d.; Mr. A. Boulon, 50, Bishopsgate, E.C., 6½d.; Mr. P. Brinkman, Bricklayers' Arms, Charlotte Street, Old Street, E.C., 6d.; Mr. D. A. Ross, London Tavern, Fenchurch Street, E.C., 4d.; Messrs. Patrick and McGregor, 9, Copthall Avenue, E.C. 6d.; Mr I. Goldstein, Bedford Arms, 1, Sandland Street, W.C., 7½d.; Mrs. Charlesworth, 90, London Road, S.E., 6d.; Mr. A. H. Adams, Black Horse, 47, Barbican, E.C., 6d.; Mr. C. H. Elliston, King's Arms, Moreland Street, City Road, E.C., 1s. 1d.; Mr. H. Solinger, 51, Milton Street, Fore Street, E.C., 4s. 6d.; Mr. L. Abrahams, Old Fountain, Baldwin Street, City Road, 11½d.; Mr. S. Judges, Coach and Horses, Chiswell Street, E.C., 1d.; Mr. A. Cohen, Britannia, 157, City Road, E.C., 5d.; Mr. H. Freitig, 179, City Road, E.C., 6d.; Mr. W. E. G. Bell, The Castle, 37, City Road, E.C., 1s. 4d.; Mrs. Jezzard, Baptist's Head, 30, St. John's Lane, Smithfield, 3s. 2d.; Mr. R. S. Tolputt, Crown, Crown Court, Fleet Street, E.C., 2s. 3d.

FAVERSHAM.—Mr. J. Duran, 14, East Street, 1s.

LEEDS.—Mr. G. Sedgwick, Mason's Arms, St. James Street, Leeds, 1s.; Mr. E. Frain, hairdresser, Pontefract Lane, 1s.; Mr. S. Alban, hairdresser, etc., 7, Camp Road, 3½d.; Mr. G. Hurst, hairdresser, Lady Lane, 1½d.; Mr. A. Brown, tobacconist, etc., Queen's Arcade, 4½d.

Total, £1 16s. o½d., of which we have allocated to CCV. £1, and to CCVI. 16s. o½d.

Of general interest. See MRS. BULL. Now on sale. One Penny.

JEALOUSY.

By Jim Crow.

[Mr. James Crow is our Licensed Crank. A brilliant exponent of unconventional ideas—invariably distorted and lacking in perspective, cynical and epigrammatic in expression—he is a journalistic cat amongst the pigeons. We accept no responsibility for his opinions—or his life.]

Jealousy is the carbuncle of love. It is a foul humour, an unnecessary excrescence upon a very beautiful body. It is the itch for unnecessary adulation, a moral phthisis which reduces the affections to an hectic decline. Why on earth is anybody ever jealous? Of course I am all the time, but then I have a neurotic disposition and can claim indulgence which I refuse to concede to the Beloved when she tells me that she wants to kick me, to break my red pencil, to throw the "Book of Revelations" at the head of the office boy—just because she fancies I have bathed or basked with the unbeloved.

A Green-Eyed Monster.

What is the sense of jealousy, when you come to think of it? No doubt I should be very unhappy in the incredible event of my finding a bookstall where the "Book of Revelations" did not occupy the most prominent position. But suppose—not that anybody can suppose anything of the kind—suppose that the Beloved so far forgot herself as to press hands in taxi-cabs with barbarians, should I be justified in feeling the faintest qualm of unhappiness? No, no, my Beloved is mine—all mine, from her cold strong hands to her micelike feet. Even though she may be hasty, impatient, utterly disgusted by my filthy habits, her desertions are never to be taken seriously. Jealousy on my part would be a confession of weakness, an admission of failure, an absence of confidence: it would give her occasion to crow over Crow.

Blarney for the Beloved.

The charm about her is that she herself never could be really jealous of me, because she knows full well that I belong to her, that I sigh for her, that I miss her every instant of my life, that no other person exists for me when she is not clasped in my arms. At least that is what I tell her when she scolds or suspects.

A Corner in Charms.

The jealousy of lovers is, of course, all nonsense. Love excludes jealousy, but there are all sorts of other jealousies which do make people unhappy. What a wretched thing it would be if I met someone else more beautiful and more charming than the Beloved. Would it not be my duty to be jealous on her behalf? Then again, there is commercial jealousy. Suppose that some prophet suddenly arose in Israel, capable of writing the masterpieces of Jim Crow. Suppose that he took away my bread and honey, that the man in the street preferred his scribbles to my glowing periods? Should I not be entitled to banish him to islands inhabited by demons?

The Consolation of Confidence.

Jealousy is a stimulant as well as a disease. How happy should I be if I could really and truly induce any golden-haired maiden to be jealous about me. How busy I should be inventing all sorts of anecdotes to encourage her in her foolish belief. What tales I would tell her of flirtations in restaurants, of caresses in corners, of compliments exchanged upon housetops. If then I saw the faintest dawn of a blush upon her peach-like brows, what a proof it would be of the infinity of her devotion to me. How confident I should be that it was within my power to depart from her, dodge her, ignore her, with the certainty that she would always return to me.

The Degenerate's Despair.

I speak as a child. When aurora borealis and coals of fire threaten grey locks, how can anyone expect the compliment of jealousy? In order to provoke jealousy, you must have something that she can be jealous about. Why should I be jealous when I know that I am not worth while? If she ran about with strangers, if she betrayed her disappearing devotion by the refusal of kisses or a preference for the society of others, I should only have myself to blame.

The Pride of Perfection.

I should be very unhappy, but not jealous in the ordinay way. As it is, I do not imagine that she could really bring herself to carouse or caress in other quarters. I should know that the taste of my lips was a caviare for which no compensation could be found in the cabbage of side-whiskers. But at the same time, I should consider myself entitled to resent heterogeneous affections.

Cerebral Betrayal.

Suppose for the sake of argument that she chose to embark upon pale platonic friendships with young men who engaged her mind and thoughts, who stole away my confidences, who persuaded her to betray all my ambitions. I should feel that, though her body was still mine to nestle with, her brain, her soul, all the most important parts of her personality were taken out of my jurisdiction. Cerebral affection is after all more potent, more lasting, than the mere exchange of caresses. There is an infidelity of the soul which is far more dangerous and damaging than the alienation of the fancies. If she gave her trust to other men, if she discussed me openly and contemptuously as though I were an utter stranger, she would be further estranged than if she lent her lips.

A Jealous Man's Joys.

One of the chief drawbacks of jealousy is that it involves rejoicing in the misfortunes of others. When she has reduced you to tears of vexation by preferring to share the society of another at supper or on the river, you will scarcely be human if you do not make merry when you hear of bad lobsters and corked wine, if you do not rub your hands when the rains pour down in torrents upon her holiday. As for your hated rival, what fun for you if he sprains his ankle or falls into the water or otherwise makes a fool of himself. That is all very natural, but unfortunately anger has a sort of boomerang effect, affects your own liver, takes away most of the pleasure of existence.

Curmudgeon Countries.

National jealousies are perhaps even more absurd than family jars. Because the Bulgarians or the Austrians, or the Lilliputians happen to covet a piece of undeveloped land which may or may not prove an avenue to the expansion of their commerce, the whole of Europe is brought to the brink of desolating wars which may cost the lives of millions and convulse the finances of continents. You have only to look at Ireland to see what incessant trouble and recriminations are caused by the aspirations of Orangemen and Nationalists to rule the roost.

Party Passions.

Then there are political jealousies, perhaps the most absurd of all. There is very little difference of principle or lack of principle between the representatives of so-called Parties. But to hear their leaders abuse one another, you would imagine that one gang was composed of saints and philanthropists, the other of criminal lunatics.

Individual Isolation.

There is one kind of jealousy which I think I do understand to a certain extent. It is summed up in an Italian phrase, which accuses a man of being "jealous of his own person." This means that you prefer privacy to publicity, you hate to be touched or hustled or watched unnecessarily. You feel very uncomfortable if another person of your own sex sees you dressing or undressing or wants to share your room. Of course, this may only be a form of madness, like touching lamp-posts when you walk along the streets. It is certainly a nuisance, but it is a natural instinct and may save you from unwelcome society.

Selfish Altruism.

This sounds as though I were preaching selfishness, and I am not yet convinced that selfishness is in any way a form of love, but I will always exercise the right to be jealous on behalf of my friends. If anyone appears to be more successful than they are, I will scheme and plot and protest until I have put a spoke into his wheel. In that way, jealousy may come to be regarded almost as a virtue, a more dangerous one than most virtues perhaps, but ——? The pretext is that I am taking the Beloved's burthens on my shoulders and suffering her tortures in her stead. This, however, is a counsel of perfection to which I cannot always attain. Perhaps it will be much simpler to allow her to continue to take over my burthens and suffer for my sake.

The Letters of Mrs. Malaprop-Brown. See MRS. BULL.

WONDERFUL EYESIGHT DISCOVERY.

EVERYBODY SAYS, "MARVELLOUS."

John Levison, the Famous Specialist, inundated with applications for Particulars of His Wonderful Method, which Restores Perfect Sight.

Explanatory Book now Available so that Every Eyesight Sufferer can have a Free Copy.

The great enthusiasm aroused by the public announcements of Mr. John Levison, the eyesight specialist, and the extraordinary success attending his new treatment for the weak-sighted, are wonderful.

Those who have gone about "half-sighted," wearing hideous, disfiguring glasses, are delighted to hear that they can now be made to see clearly, and for the first time, perhaps, in their lives enjoy the most necessary of human senses.

GLASSES CAN BE DISCARDED.

More gratifying than anything else is the fact that he offers to eyesight sufferers not the temporary disfiguring aid of spectacles, but the means of curing without heavy expense the trouble that makes glasses necessary.

The principle of his treatment is already being adopted in practice by many leading physicians who specialise on eye troubles, and it will be remembered that JOHN BULL officially investigated the results of Mr. Levison's discovery as applied in a large number of cases, and was completely satisfied of its great utility to most people suffering any eyesight defect, and especially to those whose age was beginning to make its presence felt by a dimming of the sight.

Although the announcement of the new John Levison eyesight discovery has only appeared in a small section of the Press, already this specialist is inundated with callers and with applications for printed particulars, and he has issued a huge edition of an illustrated book which tells what to do if your sight is defective or failing.

If any eyesight sufferer will write, mentioning JOHN BULL, there will be sent, free of cost, John Levison's book, that will tell him or her how to get good sight and to do without glasses.

In view of the universal importance of this matter, that well-known medical newspaper, the *Family Doctor*, considered it necessary to make an independent investigation of Mr. Levison's claim to be able to benefit practically all classes of eyesight sufferers.

Mr. Levison claims that his treatment is successful in the following conditions:—

1. FAILING OR WEAKENING SIGHT.
2. FAILING OF LONG SIGHT.
3. FAILING OF SHORT SIGHT.
4. BLURRING.
5. TWITCHING EYES.
6. HOT EYES.
7. WATERY EYES.
8. DISCHARGING EYES.
9. UNEQUAL POWER OF EYES.
10. ACHING EYES.
11. RED AND INFLAMED EYES.
12. EYESIGHT HEADACHE.

THE "FAMILY DOCTOR" REPORT.

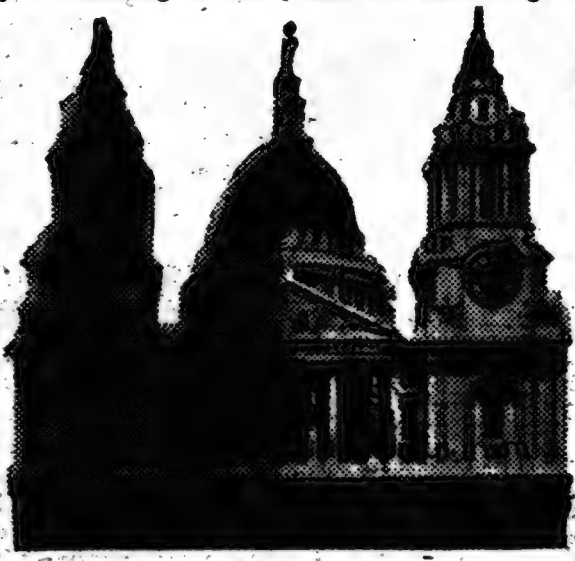
The *Family Doctor* says: "We have considered it necessary to pay a visit to Mr. John Levison's establishment to carefully investigate:—

(1) His system of treatment; (2) His method of giving advice and supplying the treatment; (3) Reports of cases treated.

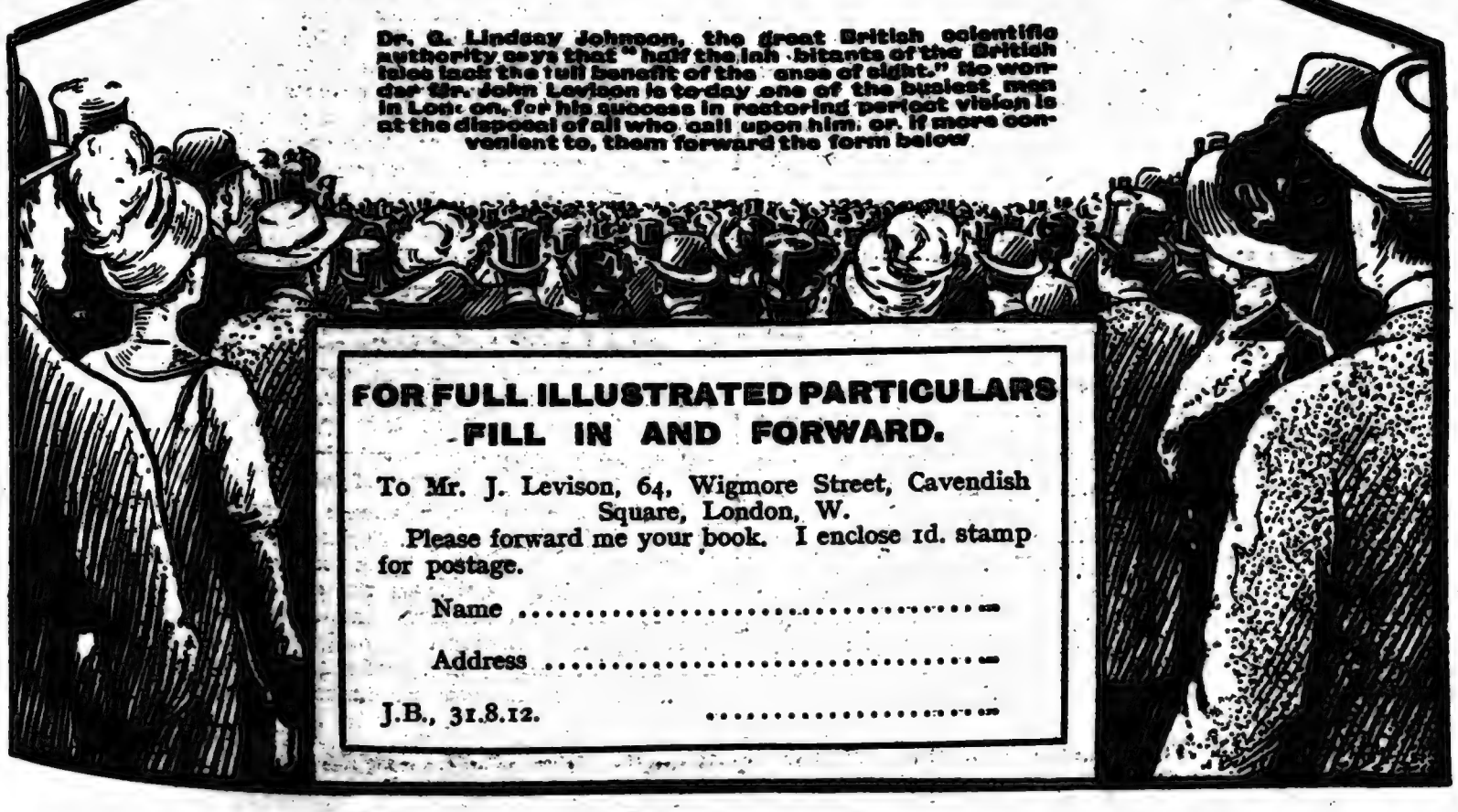
"In regard to the actual method of treatment, it is clearly upon well-approved scientific lines.

"Letters we have read, records of cases investigated, and the knowledge of the possibilities of such a treatment that Mr. Levison controls, not only permits us to emphasise its perfect safety and its great success, but to add that this treatment must be included amongst the greatest benefits that have accrued from scientific endeavour for a long time past."

No one need suffer eyesight weakness any longer, for Mr. John Levison will himself see personally any callers at his consulting rooms, 64, Wigmore Street, Cavendish Square, London, W.; but if you cannot call, send the coupon below for the printed particulars referred to. It must be said here that one of the greatest advantages of the Levison Method is its small cost.



St. Paul's seen by the short-sighted. *St. Paul's as it should be seen.*


Dr. G. Lindsay Johnson, the great British scientific authority says that "half the inhabitants of the British Isles lack the full benefit of the sense of sight." No wonder Mr. John Levison is to-day one of the busiest men in London, for his success in restoring perfect vision is at the disposal of all who call upon him, or, if more convenient to, them forward the form below

FOR FULL ILLUSTRATED PARTICULARS FILL IN AND FORWARD.

To Mr. J. Levison, 64, Wigmore Street, Cavendish Square, London, W.

Please forward me your book. I enclose 1d. stamp for postage.

Name .....

Address .....

J.B., 31.8.12. .....

OPEN LETTERS, POSTCARDS AND TELEGRAMS.

To Lord Midleton, Peper Harow, Godalming.

MY DEAR LORD,—When I perceive a public character taking to task another man in regard to a department of State in which he himself displayed grotesque incompetence, I am inclined to wonder whether there are any limits to Party audacity. A difference between your Lordship and Lord Haldane is the immensity between a comet and a candle (you being the candle). It may be that your Lordship thinks to hide the mess and muddle of Mr. St. John Brodrick under the flowing robes of Lord Midleton. And it may be that you will succeed, for no politician of recent times was so recklessly overrated by his patrons or has been so quickly forgotten by partisans.

It is *you*, my Lord, who have the temerity and the impudence to tell a public audience that Lord Haldane has taken refuge on the Woolsack from the nightmare of insufficient officers, deficient horses, and defective ammunition; *you*, the bungling War Minister whose record of humiliation and failure is to be found in the Report of the Boer War Commission; *you*, whom one of your own Party organs described as "a costly and dangerous luxury, whose political career was happily done." Whatever is false about the Army, you at any rate know that under Lord Haldane it has reached a state of comparative efficiency as a war weapon to which you were utterly incapable of bringing it. In your day it was a lament when it was not a derision; and during all the shame and the scandal, when men asked themselves why fate should have given their country such a Minister to prepare their Army for such a crisis, the best answer they could think of was that you were probably sent in order to confer on a grinning but an ungrateful Tommy Atkins the ecstasy of the Brodrick cap. In these circumstances, my Lord, I think you might exercise a little public decency, if not a little public reticence, in your criticisms of other War Ministers, past, present or to come. Few men repent of holding their tongues; assuredly you will not be one of them.

JOHN BULL.

To Oscar Hammerstein, Esq., Opera House, London.

DEAR OSCAR,—I am glad to hear that you received my last letter, and have decided to draw the curtain on grand opera in London, and sell or lease your magnificent building. What is done is done; it only remains for me to offer you my condolences. One reason of your failure was that the opera wasn't more than half as grand as your talk, another that it was composed a lot too near the time of the Flood, and still another that a Covent Garden season is about as much as the population of London will stand. Even so, you can take it from me that they don't roll up so much to hear the golden notes as to wear their diamond tiaras.

So far as your handsome edifice is concerned, I do not anticipate that you will have much trouble in selling or letting it, if the price is there or thereabouts. How do you figure it when fitted up as an office for my paper? But I shouldn't wonder if Joe Lyons were on his way to forestall me so that he can turn it into a bun-and-milk emporium, or if I heard of Lipton rushing along to New York to do a deal with you on the basis of a provision store *de luxe*. But there is no end of uses it could be put to. Failing Lyons, or Lipton, or me, somebody is dead certain to covet it for a public-house, or a music-hall, or a Government red-tape factory. So cheer up. This world is full of woe, and you can never tell whether or when you're going to lose your fortune, your teeth, your best girl, or your seat in Parliament.

JOHN BULL.

P.S.—If you have any nice blood-curdling drama, you can import a shipload. It will pay better than grand opera.—J.B.

McKenna, Home Office.

Have read official announcement that there will be "no interference" in the sentence of five years' penal servitude passed on Mrs. Leigh for the Dublin theatre Suffragette outrage, and observe significant postscript that her state of health "is causing grave anxiety to the prison authorities." How soon does she come out?

BULL.

To the Rt. Hon. R. L. Borden, Canadian Prime Minister.

SIR,—I congratulate you on your courage in stating that Canada needs men who will settle upon the land and that agricultural labourers, as well as domestic servants, are in great demand out there. Of course, this sounds all very nice and friendly, and will, no doubt, appeal to the people who are trying to arrange a deal whereby Canada will perhaps supply ships for the British Navy. But I have seen so many Canadian advertisements announcing that "No English need apply." I am afraid you have been terribly misinformed. Isn't it time that you should hurry back to welcome all the busybodies who are going to spend their holidays in Canada during the autumn? In any case, it is important that you should be there—to make sure that they are not shown too much.

JOHN BULL.

To Dr. Tredgold, Eugenist.

LEARNED SIR,—I have read your advice in the *Quarterly Review* that, "as the best remedy in constructive eugenics, in competitive examinations for appointments regard should be paid to the family history of the candidate, as also in all responsible appointments, university scholarships and bursaries." In other words, neither industry nor intelligence are to count in comparison with academic superstitions about ancestry. Was there ever so ridiculous a claim put forward on behalf of privilege for the accident of birth? Even the apologists of the House of Lords have never pretended that scholarships and eleemosynary bursaries are to be the prerogative of high-born noodles, to the exclusion of humble students. Pedigree and money already command all the highest offices in the State, and the limit is now overstepped when you claim practically every emolument for the exponents of misused opportunities.

JOHN BULL.

To General Hellby, J.P., Okehampton.

DEAR GENERAL,—My attention has been drawn to your behaviour on the Bench, when John Young, of Stonehouse, was charged with having driven a locomotive without having a communication cord attached. It appeared that the prisoner's wife had taken the cord to make a clothes-line. This does not strike me as being a very serious offence, and I should have thought that any well-disposed magistrate would have been content with an admonition. You and your colleagues, however, imposed a fine of 5s. and 8s. 6d. costs. Young did not happen to possess much money and asked for time to pay. Whereupon you retorted brutally, "There's plenty of room for you in Exeter Gaol." The Mayor was more humane, and said he did not want to send defendant to gaol. Whereupon you interjected, "The money should be paid before the Court rises. You can find the money if you want to. It is all humbug." How did you know it was all humbug, and what evidence had you that the unfortunate man was capable of paying your monstrous fine immediately? No doubt 13s. 6d. is nothing to you, but it is not every engine-driver who always has so much put away in his stocking. I shall keep an eye upon you in future, and advise you to try and keep a still tongue in your head.

JOHN BULL.

To Captain Lord of the "Californian."

MORPHETIC MARINER,—A very plausible letter; but please tell me what that white rocket could mean, and the significance of the light seen, except that a vessel was in distress and needed urgent assistance.

JOHN BULL.

Harry Lauder.

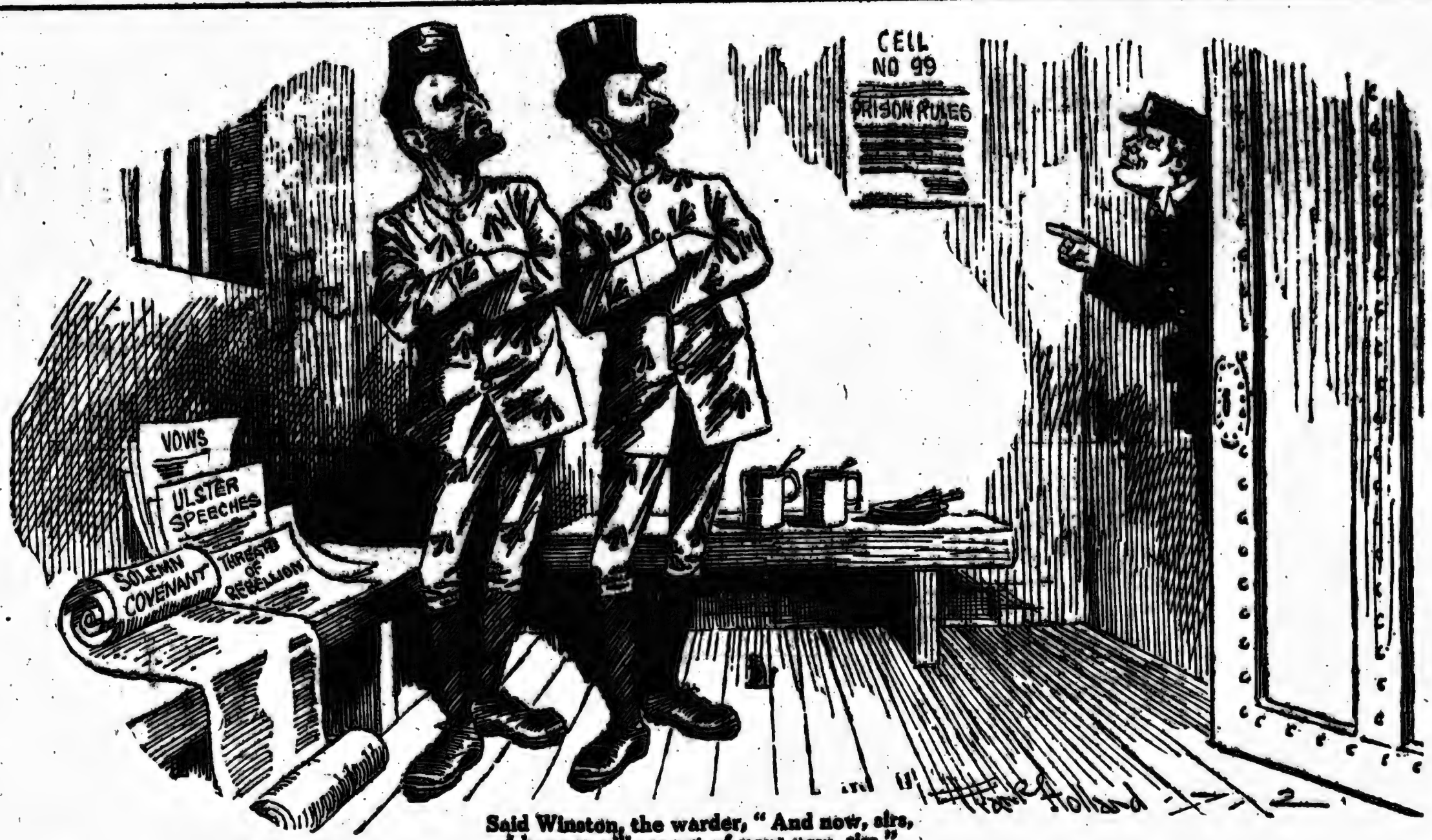
Glad to see you an advocate of economy of leisure—for music-hall performers. Quite agree that there must be one day of rest every week for every worker—but why should entertainers rest on the one day when the public has opportunities for amusement? Why not follow the foreign plan of closing on Mondays? Parsons keep open churches on Sunday and make it their hardest day in the week. Is not your profession also an elevating education?

BULL.

Free Coupon Pattern weekly in MRS. BULL.

SUFFERING FOR THEIR "CONVICTIONS."

(One of the reasons which prevent the Government impeaching the Ulster leaders is that they fear such action would stiffen the back of the movement—as depicted below.)



Said Winston, the warder, "And now, sirs,
I hope you'll repent of your vow, sirs."
Said the two, "Tho' offending,
You'll not catch us bending!
And certainly not in these 'trousers'!"

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

By "Verax."

Markets Good in Spite of the Holidays.

It must be admitted that we are getting through the holiday season remarkably well, as instead of dulness and reactionary movements, the tendency has been altogether the other way, and in such markets as Rubbers, South African Mines, Coppers, etc., really active business has been transacted, the best feature of which is that the public are also taking a hand. Somewhat of a damper has been put on the Consol market by the advent of higher discount rates, which is believed to herald a rise in the official minimum. This should do no harm, as a 4 per cent. bank rate now will prevent stringency later in the year. The Germans are throwing over Canadian Pacifics, on fears of monetary tightness there in September, and these shares, after all, are at a very high level. Germany is now feeling the effects of the ill-advised Morocco scare of last year, as she evidently is not able to tap the French financial sources from which she used to obtain such considerable assistance. If the Calumet and Hecla dividend increase is any criterion, the forthcoming Amalgamated and Anaconda dividends should also be augmented, and in anticipation of the same, prices have been hoisted very considerably. The upward movement in Copper and Copper Mines was foreshadowed in these columns for some weeks past, and my early advice regarding the coming Kaffir, Rhodesian, and Diamond activity, has been fully borne out by events.

The Rise in Rubbers—I Told You So!

I am in the happy position of being able to say: "I told you so," in view of the further rise which has taken place in rubber shares. So many investors in this country, both large and small, are interested in this market, that a rise therein makes a considerable pecuniary difference to them, and also induces them to look with a more kindly eye upon other markets. The mainspring of the advance is the unexpected rate of expansion in consumption of rubber, which last year was at the rate of 33 per cent., as compared with an estimate of about 10 per cent., so that the prospect of a shortage of supplies is not altogether a wild dream. In any case the leading producing companies should be able to declare excellent interim dividends next month. *Anglo-Malay*, which in the issue of John Bull, of July 20th last, I recommended at 14s. 6d., have now risen to 16s. 3d.xd; *Highlands*, from 3 13-32 to 3⅞; *Selangor*, from 1¾ to 2⅛; *Pataling*, from 1⅝ to 2; *Sumatra Para*, from 8s. 3d. to 9s. 6d., etc. I still advise intending investors to stick to the sound dividend-payers, and to leave speculative descriptions alone for the present.

Oil Shares Marking Time—Better News from Maikop—Chelekens Improve—An Oil Boom Close at Hand.

The rise in South African Mines and Rubbers has to some extent detracted from the strength of oil shares, but *Shell Transports* remain steady at 5⅞. On the other hand, *Ural Caspians*, to the remarkable weakness of which I have repeatedly drawn attention, are no better than 2¾ at the time of writing, and it would almost appear that my fear that there are now too many Ural Companies in the field is well grounded. A feature was the strength of *Chelekens*, which have improved to 1⅝ on increased production, while *Tcharken-Chelekens* are also firmer at ⅝. My readers will remember that I specially mentioned both these shares some time ago. The news from the Maikop Oilfield is much more satisfactory. *Maikop Spies* have improved on another new well striking oil, while the *Maikop Midland* has also got a new well in operation, and there is an increase in the last weekly output of *Maikop Victory*. The *Maikop Pipeline* is also doing well, and the price, after reacting, has recovered to 13s. I also understand that in the case of the *Black Sea Oilfields* and *Maikop Victory* new wells will come into operation in every one of the next five weeks, in which case there would be ten new wells for the two Companies. New oil companies continue to be registered, and everything points to a very busy autumn in oil flotations.

Diamonds Still Buoyant—Kaffirs Firm at a Considerable Advance—Rhodesians More Active.

I have, for some time, been drawing attention to the market in Diamond shares, and notably to *De Beers Deferred*, *Jagersfontein*, and *Premier Deferred*. The advance which I predicted has come about, and De Beers Deferred have now taken a further jump to 21⅛, while Premier Deferred, at the time of writing, are up at 11¾, and Jagersfontein are quoted 6 11/16, to which they have risen from 6 last week, and will certainly go higher. There is little interest in the other diamond shares, with the exception, perhaps, of *Roberts Victor*, which have improved to 1 9-32. In the Kaffir Circus the mines on the Eastern Rand have had quite a boomlet, owing to the important discoveries on the Modderfontein Deep, but *New Modderfontein* are now below the best at 11⅛, after touching 12. *Goldfields* are now over 4, and there are buyers for *Brakpan* and *City Deep*, while *Rand Mines* are harder at 6⅛ xd., and *Johnnies Investment* at 22. One of the firmest shares is *Central Mining* at 11, which have come up from 9¼, and this is a share the rise in which is calculated to encourage the Paris Bourse, where they are largely held. Rhodesians are also rallying, the firmest shares being *Chartered* at 30s., and *Cam and Motor* at 37s. 6d. I am glad to know from various communications received, that many of my readers acted on my advice to buy South African Mines at low prices when I first drew attention to them, so that they now stand on velvet, as anyone will see when comparing present prices with the quotations of a month ago.

Tin and Tin Mines Firming Up Again—The Anglo-Continental Mystery Still Unsolved—More Unconfirmed Rumours.

I wonder who invents the various rumours which are every now and then being put about concerning *Anglo-Continental*. So far there has never been any official confirmation, neither has the Company vouchsafed any news of any kind since the disappointing report of the consulting engineer, Mr. Balfour. The new manager, Mr. Rumbold, is now in charge, but so far there is no official news from him. Market men, of course, are watching the buying of the shares, which is said to have been influential, but it is always dangerous to follow such market tips. Anglo-Continentals are, however, firmer at the time of writing at 1 17-32. The rest of the market fluctuates within narrow limits, *Keffi* being quoted 6s. 6d. If the Jemaa lode were really valuable, Keffi should have a considerable rise, and so should *Toro* at 3s. 6d.

Revival in Iron and Steel Shares.

First copper and tin, then lead, and now iron and steel are having their turn, and, to judge from the inquiries which are now reaching us, the latter group of shares is catching the fancy of the public. The position of the industry has undoubtedly improved of late. The latest instance of the prosperity of British companies is afforded by the *Wigan Iron and Steel Company*, which has just declared an interim dividend of 2 per cent., against 1½ per cent. a year ago, while excellent results are recorded in the *Guest, Keen* directors' report for the past year. *Bolckow Vaughan* have risen this year from 19s. 6d. to 21s. 3d.; *Guest, Keen* from 57s. 9d. to 64s.; *Pease and Partners* from 10¾ to 12¼; *South Durham* from 20s. to 26s. 6d.; *Weardale* from 15s. to 18s.; and this selection is as good as any that can be obtained in this department, giving big yields, ranging up to over 8 per cent. per annum in the case of *South Durhams*.

Reflections on the Great South American Railway Schemes.

I hold no brief for the powerful group which is now engaged in bringing about a huge railway combine in South America, and before which all other such amalgamations pale into insignificance, but I must express my admiration for the pertinacity with which the various obstacles are being overcome and the plans pushed to completion. Practically the whole of the Haute Finance in the leading centres of the world are engaged in the deal, and the Syndicate has in the first place acquired £3,000,000 Prefs. in the *Argentine Railway Company*. The three *Cordoba Railway* lines will form a link in the system, and, as a first step, are being amalgamated, their present combined capital working out to about £14,160 per mile. The same group has obtained control of the *Antofagasta Railway*, and the *Brasil Railway* and its associated groups ultimately hope to secure control of the principal railways traversing the length and breadth of South America. To assist in these schemes, the British investor will be asked to take a hand presently, and that is where he will get the chance of expressing his approval, or otherwise, of one of the most daring undertakings known in the world of finance.

"Waste," a fascinating Storyette, by Walter Moore—

NOTES.

"Good Investments."

A reader has sent us a copy of the prospectus recently issued by the Motor Union Insurance Co. (originally formed to insure the cars of members of the Motor Union, but which has since embarked upon fire, burglary and accident business), by which are offered for subscription 50,000 5½ per cent £1 Preference shares, and directs our attention to the following paragraph: "The object of the present issue is to increase the company's capital funds so as to make them commensurate with the company's rapidly expanding business; it is proposed to use the cash received from this issue for the purchase of good investments." From the nature of the company's existing investments, disclosed in its last balance-sheet, it is apparent that the average income from them could not be more than 3½ per cent. per annum, so it cannot be in this class of security that it is proposed to invest the £50,000 of fresh capital, carrying 5½ per cent. interest, together with the proceeds of two previous issues made in August, 1910, and October, 1911. But although the prospectus is silent on the point, some light is thrown upon the subject by the recent announcement that the company has acquired the undertaking of the old Eagle Fire Insurance Company, of New York, and is embarking upwards of £100,000 in the venture. It is obvious that these arrangements were well advanced, if not actually completed, when the prospectus was issued, and having regard to the hazardous nature of American fire risks, we wonder how many investors would have applied for the shares had the facts been disclosed. Nor are we impressed with the appointment, as representative of the company in America, of Mr. John L. Dudley, junr., whose connection with the now defunct Glasgow, Law Car, United London and Scottish and Omnium Companies in a like capacity does not constitute a particularly happy recommendation.

Cocoanut Shies.

The F.M.S. Government are warning the public against certain cocoanut and copra propositions hailing from British Malaya, and also condemning the practice which obtains amongst ex-Governors of the States, of joining the boards of such concerns. The Government might as well have saved themselves the trouble. If the public wants to speculate, it is immaterial to it in what the speculation consists, or rather does not consist. It shies at nothing—not even at cocoanuts. As for ex-officials, growing cocoanuts is about the only thing some of them should ever have gone in for.

Exit Carter West.

The extradition of this financier having been ordered, we leave his fate to the German Courts. We wish, however, to draw attention to statements made at the magisterial enquiry that whilst sitting in his lodgings in the Clapham Road he was able to send letters written on notepaper of the Hotel Continental, Paris, and the Savoy Hotel, London. We do not know how they manage these things in France, but at the Savoy here, is anyone who wishes to do so able to enter the writing-room, conduct his correspondence from there and, what is more, have letters addressed to him, received, and kept until called for at the enquiry office?

In Yankeeland.

Vice-Consul MacKirdy, in reporting on the affairs of Kansas City during 1911, tells us that the Anti-Bucket Shop Law has prevented the investing public of the State being fleeced of a total amount which would be sufficient to run the entire Government. Briefly cited, the law makes it extremely difficult, if not impossible, for sharpers to unload on the ignorant, and empowers the State Bank Commissioner to freely investigate and report on any company about which he may have his "doots." This kind of legislation reads all right, but we cannot help thinking that much harm may be done by allowing the public to imagine that the law protects them so well that they need not use ordinary precautions to protect themselves.

Royal Mail and P. and O., and the Cape Trade.

Shareholders and investors will do well to closely watch P. and O. stock. Although the Cape Mail contract is practically fixed, great dissatisfaction is felt by the members of the old Cape loading ring; and the feeling is prevalent that Sir Owen Philipps by agreeing to the abolition of rebates in order to secure the Mail contract, has dished the other ring brokers. There is no doubt that a huge quarrel is imminent amongst the old gang. The enormous sum paid to the South African International Lines will not be continued, and this will lead to an open fight in the loading market. One result will be that the Royal Mail and P. and O. will amalgamate and endeavour to control the Cape trade, whilst the Royal Mail will open out in the Australian trade. We hear rumours, too, of the pending retirement from the chairmanship of Sir Owen Philipps, who will be succeeded by Sir John Ellerman.

If You See It . . .

We are gratified to receive the following expression of appreciation from one of our readers:—

> "Having acted on your advice some weeks ago and purchased Kaffirs, which I have since sold out at a good profit, I think the very least I can do is to acknowledge my indebtedness for the sound advice tendered in the columns of John Bull."

We are glad to think that some of our more recent predictions have proved equally correct.

Rubber Explorations.

What has become of this concern? Strange reports reach us of dealings on the part of one of its officials in Molesworths, David Young, and Oceana-Development, the profits upon which do not appear to have found their way into the company's treasury.

South Africa and Oil.

The representative of a London syndicate is now in South Africa with a view to reviving an important scheme which has for some time remained dormant, for the development of certain oil-bearing lands in the Ceres and Mossel Bay districts. Eminent experts have reported upon the geological formation, and if their predictions are borne out, an enormous impetus will be given to the world's oil production—and within the British Empire.

"Arthur Williams and Co.," Bankers.

This is the firm of spurious bankers which we recently exposed, and which has now gone "fut." In connection with an action for libel which it had the temerity to bring against us, and which it soon dropped, we obtained some interesting details of the history of its leading spirit, one Morris Berlyn Jacobs, alias Joseph Morris, which we shall be happy to place at the disposal of the Official Receiver.

Chelekken Oil Fields.

The latest cable advice from this property is to the effect that Well No. 11 blew 1½ hours on Wednesday afternoon, the estimated quantity of oil being 50,000 poods (806 tons), and that the fountain shield support was smashed. The rise in Chelekens during the past week has been the feature of the Oil market, and in view of the increased output we shall expect to see it continue.

NEW ISSUES.

Canadian Middle West Trust.

As we foreshadowed in our last issue, the prospectus of this company has now made its appearance. The capital consists of 295,000 preferred ordinary shares of £1, and 100,000 deferred ordinary shares of 1s. each, of which 200,000 preferred ordinary shares are now being offered for subscription at par. The undertaking has been formed principally for the purpose of advancing money on the security of Real Estate in Western Canada, and in addition will act as trustees and agents in connection with all classes of investment business in the Dominion. A very large and profitable field of enterprise would appear to be open to it, and judging by the success of some of the existing Trust companies and having regard to the strength of the board, which includes Mr. R. H. Court, the London manager of the Dominion Trust Co., Ltd., we regard the shares as an extremely promising investment.

Vacuum Electric and Gas-Heating Appliances.

This is an issue of 65,000 shares at par of a company formed to acquire the patent rights of various gas and electric-heating appliances for use in houses, conservatories, stables, etc. It is claimed that installations can be supplied at about one-half the cost of those at present in use, besides possessing several unique features which should commend themselves to the public. In view of the efforts now being made by electric supply authorities to boom the use of electricity for domestic purposes, the possibilities of the apparatus would appear to be great, and in all the circumstances we do not think the estimate of future profits an extravagant one. The vendor, who takes half the purchase consideration in shares, is identifying himself with the management of the company for a term of years.

Appears in this week's MRS. BULL. Now on Sale. One Penny.

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE LETTER-BOX.

Letters containing enquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, John Bull, 52, New Broad Street, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.

A Postal Order for 1/- must accompany each Financial or Insurance Enquiry.

Investment.—A. G. B.—A fair investment amongst London bank shares. Anglo-Argentine Tram Debs.—J. G. S.—A good second-class investment, yielding over 4½ per cent per annum. Absolutely gilt-edged stocks do not usually offer more than about 4 per cent. per annum.

Building Society.—Liberator.—You can only obtain this information by writing to the liquidator of the Society.

Dividends.—C. T. P.—This is rather a question for a solicitor to answer, but we should think you are entitled only to the two months' dividend. As regards Income Tax, it depends upon whether the dividends are paid free of tax, or less tax. In the latter case you could reclaim the amount from the Income Tax Commissioners; but you might also communicate with the Income Tax Adjustment Agency, Poultry, Cheapside, E.C., upon the matter.

Nineteen Investments.—J. G. D.—Upon the whole, your list of nineteen investments is well chosen, and practically the only change which we have to suggest is that, instead of either Nos. 9 or 16, you might substitute Canadian Northern Ontario 3½ per cent. First Mortgage Debenture stock, unconditionally guaranteed by the Dominion Government, and yielding nearly £3 19s. per cent., this being about the cheapest security of the kind in the Canadian division.

Rubber Shares.—Mrs. G. J.—The rubber-share market is in distinctly better form. At the same time you will find it far better to stick to the sound dividend-paying shares, and, instead of those mentioned, you might buy Anglo-Malay, Labu and Sumatra Para.

Colonial Rubber and Produce Investment Co.—Excelda.—This Company has, no doubt, suffered severely from the depreciation in its holdings, many of which, however, are of a substantial character, and you should not sell your shares now. In fact, you would find great difficulty in doing so, as there is at present no regular quotation for them.

Oil Shares.—L. H. J. E.—(1) The following selection should suit you:—Anglo-Maikops at 1s., Maikop New Producers at 5s., Galician Oil Trust, Maikop Spies at 8s., Kern River at 5s. 9d., and Standard of Mexico A at 2s. 9d. (2) Now. (3) This is a matter for arrangement with your broker. (4) Yes. (5) This has been attended to.

Foreign Lotteries.—M. M. D. (Falkirk).—We are not at present in a position to advise any firm for Foreign Lotteries. Constant.—(Ponty).—See above answer.

Outside Broker.—Nemo.—The firm in question has disappeared.

Fourteen Day Pools.—F. A. (Irlam).—Have nothing to do with the syndicate.

Channel Coast and Freehold Resorts, Ltd.—Abled.—(1) We have visited Ste. Cecile and think the undertaking has fair prospects of success. (2) Yes. (3) We have no information. (4) We have formed a favourable opinion of Galician Oil Lands and Royalties Trust.

Investment Registry.—L. W. (Edinburgh).—Send us the papers, with a full statement signed by your friend.

Stock Exchange Defaulters.—J. J. (London).—Write to the Secretary of the London Stock Exchange.

Chelsken Oil.—L. R. (London).—We regard them as one of the best purchases in the oil market.

Petroleum Options.—W. T. (Birmingham).—Have patience. They are in very strong hands.

Imperial and Foreign Corporation.—S. T. (London).—Mr. Forbes would appear to have some ground for complaint. The position of Mr. Hill-Cole in the matter is a mystery.

Building Society.—Mrs. H. (Putney).—Your best course is to apply to the liquidator, who will give you all the necessary information.

Various Investments.—Investor.—(1) Gilt-edged securities do not usually yield more than about 4 per cent. per annum; but you can get 4½ per cent. in Melbourne Harbour Trust 4½ per Cent. Debenture stock, at about 100; and the same in Auckland Harbour Board 4½ per cent. stock at 102. Several Home Industrial Preferences can also be bought to yield from 4½ per cent. per annum and upwards, such as D. H. Evans and Co. 6 per cent. Preference £1 shares at 1 5-16; Mappin and Webb 5½ per cent. Preference £1 shares at 1½, etc. (2) We prefer Midland Deferred and Great Northern Deferred. (3) Cargo Fleet are a fair purchase amongst iron and steel shares, and other attractive holdings include Guest Keen, Bolckow Vaughan and Weardales.

Obscure Canadian Concerns.—Liverpool.—We have no information about either of these concerns, and we advise you not to invest in them unless you can obtain definite information about their position and prospects from a thoroughly reliable source.

New Spes Bona.—Anxious.—We do not quite understand your question. The New Spes Bona has not been incorporated with the Meyer and Charlton, but is still a separate Company, although the property has been let to tributers, and a considerable expenditure would be necessary for the thorough development of the mine. There is no market for the shares, and there is, therefore, no option but to hold the same.

Danish Loan.—A. K.—Yes, hold Danish Bonds for an investment, although these do not exactly come within the gilt-edged category.

Galician Oil Lands and Royalties Trust.—J. I. (Glasgow).—We have repeatedly stated that we think well of the prospects of this undertaking.

Knotless Veilholder Co.—E. W. S. (West Kirby).—We are informed that the dividends are punctually paid monthly, but this does not mean on the 1st of the month. We are also informed that you have received your dividend now. The price of the shares is 12s. 6d.

National Benefit Life and Property.—Brechfa.—The change of name was rendered necessary by the addition of new departments, but this in no way affects the old members. The receipts of each class of insurance must be kept separate, and the subscriptions received from old members must of necessity be dealt with as provided by the particular conditions. We think you are quite under a misapprehension in regard to the ballots, and the suggestion you make is quite a novel one to us. The financial position of the undertaking is undoubtedly strong, and you need be under no anxiety on this head. We think you must have been misinformed as to the amount received by the seller, as the transfer papers signed by both parties would show the consideration which passed, and which we gather was £21. If the facts be as stated, however, it is obviously the duty of the seller to bring them to the notice of the Company. We have referred to condition 8 of the bond, and find you can make application for a fully-paid bond to the amount of the total subscriptions paid, should you desire to cease paying the instalments. We have returned your bond, subscription book, and ballot list under cover.

Pearl Assurance Company.—W. H. C. (West Bridgeford).—Whether or not you are able to claim free policies in respect of the two cases you mention is a matter determined by the conditions endorsed on the policies. If you care to send us these, we will give you our opinion, or you might write head office for the information and let us know their answer. S. C. (Leeds).—You say that you have insured the lives of your father and mother, neither of whom signed the proposal forms, nor were they consulted in any way. The Act of 1909 is a many-sided measure and is silent upon the points as to whether the assurance on the life of another should be effected without his knowledge or consent. If the proposal forms were purported to be signed by the father and mother and were not so signed by them, then we should say the policies are probably null and void. Personally, we think the policies you have enclosed are in order, as they are termed funeral expenses policies, and are issued on the lives of your father and mother for your benefit. We have returned your papers. Leather (Glasgow).—The two policies issued on the life of another were in order. The premiums paid amount to £10 1s., but inasmuch as the last payment was made in July, 1905, and the assured is now deceased, you could not claim under them, the policies now being void and the whole of the premiums forfeited to the Company. No provision is made either for the payment of a Surrender Value or the issuing of Free Policies, and unless the Company will make you a grant, you are helpless. A. H. (Liverpool). We do not understand the agent's statement that the policy you hold is worthless. It appears to have been issued on the life of "A. H.," who is, we presume, your wife. If we are wrong in this assumption let us know what relationship exists between you and the assured, and we will advise you as to your position in the matter. Meanwhile, you had better pay the arrears so as to keep the policy in force. We are retaining the policy pending your reply. K. I. Q. (Stamford Hill).—See first paragraph of reply to "W. A. T." (Bath) under Refuge Assurance, which case is apparently on all fours with yours. You had better write the Company and ascertain that the amount of the insurance will be paid over to you in the event of a claim arising under the policies which we have returned under cover. H. H. (Coventry).—Send us the correspondence. A. B. (Longton).—We are obliged for the newspaper report of the successful action against this Company in the Newcastle (Staffs.) County Court which we have already made the subject of Editorial comment.

Royal Liver.—Hors.—The wife has an insurable interest in the life of her husband, and also the child. Policies having been taken up so recently as a year ago and as the husband disapproves of the transaction we fear that nothing can be done, except to allow the policies to lapse. The premiums are not recoverable unless you can prove that the husband's signature was written on the proposal form without his knowledge or consent. The best advice we can give is to think no more of the matter. E. McN. (Keighley).—You hold a policy on the life of your father-in-law, who has been missing for over two years. You have informed the Society of this circumstance and they have offered to pay you, so the superintendent says, £2 10s. for the £18 paid in, or, in the alternative, you may elect to continue the policy until evidence of death is forthcoming. Unless the Courts will presume the death, you have no option but to comply with the Society's wishes. A. J. L. (Leamington).—The question of the surrender of the various policies you hold is a matter that you must decide for yourself. Of course remittance could be made from abroad, and in all probability the Society would allow the cost of the same and also the postage. If you should decide to maintain the policies in force you had better clear up this point before leaving the country. There are several well-established and sound life offices in Australia, and you would have no difficulty in effecting policies which we think would be advantageous to you, especially if taken out in the ordinary branch, where the premiums are payable quarterly, half-yearly or yearly. A further important point to remember is that participating policies carry substantial profits in the way of bonus additions. Apply for prospectuses to the Mutual Life and Citizens' Assurance Co. of Australia, 17, Coleman Street, London, E.C., the Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society, 33, Poultry, London, E.C., and the National Mutual Life Association of Australasia, 5, Cheapside, London, E.C.

Royal London Mutual.—G. P. W. (Manchester).—The policy on the life of your brother should have been assigned to your mother who continued the payment of the premiums up to the date of his death. You inform us that the amount insured is £20 14s., and that your mother has received on account the sum of £10—leaving a balance of £10 14s., which your mother was informed she would receive in a day or so. The Society now say, through their superintendent, that your mother cannot claim this balance as she is not the next-of-kin, and that the money will be payable to the children of the deceased when they reach the age of 21. The Society may be legally correct in this decision, but there is another side to the question—namely, if £10 has been paid on account why should the balance be withheld? Your mother is clearly entitled to the whole or nothing. We should instruct a local solicitor to deal with the case.

Liverpool Victoria Legal.—A. T. C. (Edinburgh).—It is clear from your explanation that you had a *bona-fide* intention of keeping the policy on your father's life in force, and as evidence of that, after the policy had lapsed, you applied for re-instatement. Before the re-instatement could be effected your father died and the Society now decline to admit the claim. They may be within their strict legal rights in adopting this course, but on the ground of equity we are of opinion that the claim ought to be admitted. You say that you were in no way dependent on your father at the time the policy was effected in 1909, and that insurable interest, therefore, does not exist. We should recommend you to make another application to the Society to meet you in the matter and let us know how you get on. In the meantime we retain the papers.

Refuge Assurance.—W. A. T. (Bath).—1. The Act of 1909 defines the precise insurable interest that must exist to make the policy valid—namely, that the proposer must at the time have a *bona-fide* expectation that he would incur expenses in connection with the death or funeral of the assured. We think the circumstances you mention cover this point. 2. The title to the money in the event of a claim arising vests in the proposer and could not be legally claimed by the son of the person assured. 3. The endorsement, although undated, does not invalidate the policy. 4. The reduction in the amount assured in consequence of the re-adjustment of age does not appear to be excessive. The policy has been returned to you under cover. Owd Ned.—Send us the policies, and we will advise you further.

Prudential Assurance Co.—Credo (Pontefract).—If you wish to keep up the insurance have the policies endorsed. If not take free policies and see that they are endorsed for you to be allowed to follow your present occupation. You have no other remedy. A. T. S. (Portsmouth).—You have no remedy, as you have signed a receipt for the surrender of the policy. You can obtain free policy on your own. A. C. (Castle Donington).—Your friend appears to have been deliberately swindled. Write to the head office and demand an explanation. Let us know the result. Parry (Manchester).—It would be safest to have a will made out in your favour. J. H. C. (Manchester).—We can only repeat our previous advice. The Company will be compelled to produce the proposal form, and if forgery has been committed the case would doubtless be decided in your favour.

(A number of replies are held over.)

A Popular Song, Words and Music, every week in MRS. BULL.

A Copy of this Prospectus has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, which states, amongst other things, that

The Subscription List will open on Tuesday, August 27th, and close on or before Friday, August 30th, for Town, and on Saturday, August 31st, 1912, at 12 noon for Country.

THE CANADIAN MIDDLE WEST TRUST, LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908.

CAPITAL - - - - £300,000.

Divided into 295,000 Preferred Ordinary Shares of £1 each, and 100,000 Deferred Ordinary Shares of 1s. each.

200,000 Preferred Ordinary Shares of £1 each (entitled to Preferential Dividend of 7%) are now offered for Subscription at par.

Payable as follows:—

1s. per Share on Application, 4s. per Share on Allotment,

and the balance as and when required in calls not exceeding 5s. per Share at intervals of not less than two months. Interest will be allowed on payments in advance at the rate of 4% per ann.

The Articles of Association provide that the profits of the Company made during each financial year, or such portion thereof, as the Directors may decide to apply in dividend, shall be applicable in order of priority following. First, in payment of a non-cumulative Preferential dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on the amount paid up or credited as paid up on the Preferred Ordinary Shares, and secondly, of the balance the total amount shall be placed to the credit of a Reserve Fund until the same shall amount to at least 20 per cent. of the capital paid up on the Preferred Ordinary Shares, and thereafter of the balance 50 per cent. shall be applied in payment of a further dividend on the Preferred Ordinary Shares, and the remainder on the Deferred Ordinary Shares. The Preferred Ordinary Shares are entitled in a winding up to priority in capital, and to one-half of the surplus assets remaining after repayment of the capital paid up on all the Shares, the Deferred Shares being entitled to the remaining half.

The Preferred Ordinary Shares carry ONE VOTE for every Share. The Deferred Ordinary Shares carry ONE VOTE for every ten Shares.

No distribution will be made on the Deferred Ordinary Shares until a Reserve Fund has been created, equal to at least 20 per cent. of the paid up Preferred Ordinary Capital.

Of the Present Issue of Preferred Ordinary Shares 130,000 have been underwritten, of which over 90,000 have been underwritten in Canada.

DIRECTORS.

In Great Britain:

Sir JAMES B. DALE, Bart., Park Close, Englefield Green, Surrey, Director Pease and Partners, Limited, and Consett Iron Company, Limited (Chairman).

R. H. COURT, Pinners' Hall, Austin Friars, London, E.C., London Manager, Dominion Trust Co., Ltd.

J. LORNE MACLEOD, S.S.C., J.P. (Treasurer of the City of Edinburgh), 25, Albany Street, Edinburgh.

HENRY G. STOBART, Witton Tower, Witton-le-Wear, Durham, Director Horden Collieries, Limited, and The Wearmouth Coal Company, Limited.

In Western Canada:

W. R. ARNOLD, Vancouver, B.C., Managing Director Dominion Trust Company, Ltd.

J. S. HOUGH, K.C. (Winnipeg), Western Director Royal Trust Company of Canada, Ltd.; Canadian Director Royal Exchange Assurance.

A. L. JOHNSON (Winnipeg), Director Prudential Trust Company, Ltd.; General Western Manager Ames Holden McCready Company, Ltd.

EVERETT KENT STRATHY (Winnipeg), formerly Branch Manager of the Union Bank of Canada.

In Eastern Canada:

SAMUEL BARKER, M.P. (Hamilton), Director Union Bank of Canada; Director Union Trust Company, Ltd.

GEO. S. MAY (Ottawa), Director Union Trust Company, Ltd.; President Ottawa Board of Trade.

INVESTMENT AGENTS IN CANADA.

DOMINION TRUST COMPANY, LIMITED, Head Office, Vancouver; Branches:—Montreal, Regina, Calgary, Victoria, New Westminster and Nanaimo, B.C.

GENERAL AGENTS IN TORONTO.

GIBSON, TAYLOR, STRATHY AND CO., LTD.

AGENTS IN SCOTLAND.

A. & C. M. DAVIDSON SMITH, Chartered Accountants, Edinburgh.

BANKERS.

PARR'S BANK, LIMITED, 4, Bartholomew Lane, London, E.C., and Branches.

THE UNION BANK OF CANADA, 51, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C., and Canadian Branches.

THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, Edinburgh, and Branches.

BROKERS.

CREWS, LICHTENSTADT AND CO., 38, Throgmorton Street, London, E.C., and Stock Exchange.

EDWIN M. SOLOMONS, Bewleys Chambers, Fleet Street, Dublin and Stock Exchange.

WM. F. COATES AND CO., 3, Lombard Street, Belfast, and Stock Exchange.

F. E. MACFADYEN, 12, Grey Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and Stock Exchange.

SOLICITORS.

SURTEES, PHILLPOTTS AND CO., 6, St. Helen's Place, London, E.C.

HOUGH, CAMPBELL AND FERGUSON, Winnipeg.

AUDITORS.

In Great Britain:—W. B. PEAT AND CO., Chartered Accountants, 11, Ironmonger Lane, London, E.C.

In Canada: MACINTOSH AND HYDE, Chartered Accountants, Montreal and Winnipeg.

SECRETARY AND REGISTERED OFFICE.

C. F. DEMPSTER, C.A., 6, Broad Street Place, London, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed for the objects set out in the Memorandum of Association, but primarily for the purpose of advancing money on the security of real estate in Western Canada. It will commence business free from commitments as regards any specific investments.

The great development of farm lands, which is now taking place in Western Canada, is well known, resulting in continuous opportunities occurring for the favourable investment of capital upon loan, the usual rate of interest on loans on farm properties there being from 8 to 9 per cent.

A much higher return can be obtained by the discounting of agreements for sale. A vendor of property in Western Canada in most cases receives only a part of the purchase price in cash, the balance being payable in instalments with interest at from 6 to 18 per cent. Owing to the present activity in the Western Canada Land Market, vendors frequently discount the balance payable under their agreements of sale, with the result that Trust Companies, undertaking such business, earn a profit by way of discount in addition to the interest accruing on the unpaid instalments. There is a very large amount of this class of business transacted in Western Canada. Owing to its organisation and connections, this Company will have special facilities for participating in such profits.

In all cases securities upon which the Company advances money will be examined by experienced valuers, and such advances will not exceed 50 per cent. of their valuations.

Considerable profits are expected to be made from the other branches of business above referred to. The following particulars, taken from the last available figures, furnish evidence of the success attained by a few of the existing Companies carrying on a somewhat similar business in Canada:—

Canada Permanent Mortgage Corporation—paid-up capital, $6,000,000; latest dividends per annum, 9 per cent.; par value of shares, $10; latest price, $20.00; reserve funds, $3,750,000. Dominion Trust Co., Ltd.—paid-up capital $1,500,188.60; latest dividends per annum, 8 per cent. and bonus; par value of shares, $100; latest price, $140; reserve funds, $550,000. National Trust Co., Ltd., Toronto—paid-up capital, $1,500,000; latest dividends per annum, 10 per cent.; par value of shares, $100; latest price, $200; reserve funds, $1,300,000. North of Scotland Canadian Mortgage Co., Ltd.—paid-up capital, £220,000; latest dividends per annum, 12½ per cent. and bonus 2½ per cent.; par value of shares, £10 (£2 paid); latest price, £5 10s.; reserve funds, £345,000. Trust and Loan Co. of Canada—paid-up capital, £600,000; latest dividends per annum, 8 per cent.; par value of shares, £10 (£5 paid), latest price, £6 10s.; reserve funds, £307,799. Union Trust Co., Ltd., Toronto—paid-up capital, $1,000,000; latest dividends per annum, 10 per cent.; par value of shares, $100; latest price, $180; reserve funds, $750,000.

It may reasonably be expected that there will be a growing tendency for Bonds or Securities of well established Canadian concerns to be placed locally in the Dominion. Through their connections in Western Canada the Directors believe that they should have favourable opportunities of participating in issues of this class, and they will, so far as practicable, arrange that Shareholders in this Company shall be given facilities of participating in any such new issues in which the Company may be interested.

Canadian Directors and Management.

The Canadian Directors are business men of long experience having an intimate knowledge of Canadian affairs.

Investment Agents in Canada.

The Dominion Trust Company, Limited, who will have a large interest in this Company, will act as Agents in Canada for the investment of the Company's funds.

The following have already agreed to represent the Company in their various districts:—H. L. STIRK, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan; MORTON BARTLING AND CO., Prince Albert, Saskatchewan; SPENCER AND IRELAND, Medicine Hat, Alberta; W. L. MAY, Edmonton, Alberta.

Applications for shares should be made on the Form accompanying the full Prospectus (on the terms of which alone applications will be received), and sent to the Company's Bankers, together with a remittance for the amount payable on application.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application for Shares can be obtained from the Company's Bankers and Brokers, and at the Offices of the Company.

A brokerage of 3d. per share will be paid by the Company on Shares applied for and allotted on applications identified as coming through Brokers and approved Agents.

Application will be made to the Committee of the London Stock Exchange for a settlement in and quotation of the Shares of the Company.

LONDON, *26th August*, 1912.

This Form should be filled up and forwarded to the Bankers of the Company, Parr's Bank, Bartholomew Lane, London, E.C., and Branches, The Union Bank of Canada, 51, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C., or The Royal Bank of Scotland, Edinburgh, and Branches, together with a cheque payable to "Bearer" for 1s. per Share on the number of Shares applied for.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR PREFERRED ORDINARY SHARES.

(To be retained by the Bankers.)

To the Directors of

THE CANADIAN MIDDLE WEST TRUST, LIMITED.

GENTLEMEN,—Having paid to the Company's Bankers the sum of £ s being a deposit of 1s. per Share payable on application for Preferred Ordinary Shares of £1 each in the above Company, I hereby apply for and request you to allot me that number of Shares, and I hereby agree to accept the same, or any less number which may be allotted to me, upon the terms of the Company's Prospectus dated August 26th, 1912, filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, and I authorise you to place my name on the Register of Members of the Company as holder of such Shares so allotted to me, and I further agree to pay to the Company the further sum of 4s. per Share on Allotment in respect of any Shares so allotted, and the balance as provided by the said Prospectus.

Name (in full).....

Usual Signature.....

Address.....

Description.....

Date.....1912.

A Copy of this Prospectus has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

The Subscription List will open on Tuesday, 27th August, 1912, and close on or before Thursday, 29th August, 1912, for Town and Country.

THE VACUUM ELECTRIC AND GAS HEATING APPLIANCES LIMITED.

(Incorporated under the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908).

CAPITAL - - - £100,000

Divided into 100,000 Shares of £1 each.

Issue of 80,000 Shares of £1 each,

of which 65,000 Shares are offered for Subscription at Par (15,000 being issued as part payment of the purchase consideration).

20,000 Reserved for future issue for further Working Capital.

Payable as fol'ows:—

1s. per Share on Application, 9s. per Share on Allotment, 5s. per Share One Month after Allotment, 5s. per Share Two Months After Allotment.

DIRECTORS.

MAURICE FITZHARDINGE BERKELEY, 2, Ormonde Terrace, Regent's Park, London, N.W., Director of "Surveying and Housing World," Limited.
OTWAY CUFFE, Warwick Villa, Acton, Middlesex, Gentleman.
GEORGE JOHNSTONE SMITH, 20, Adamson Road, London, N.W., Gentleman.

BANKERS.

THE CAPITAL AND COUNTIES BANK, LIMITED, 335, High Holborn, London, W.C.
Head Office:—39, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C. and Branches.

BROKERS.

WILLIAMS AND WIMBUSH, 27, Royal Exchange and Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

SOLICITORS.

To the Company—COSMO R. CRAN, 15, New Broad Street, London, E.C.
To the Vendor—CHATTERTON AND CO., 32, Finsbury Square, London, E.C.

AUDITORS.

MOORE, PARTRIDGE AND CO., Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES (*pro tem.*).

JOHN MANN, 16 and 17, Devonshire Square, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

OBJECTS.

This Company has been formed with the objects mentioned in the Memorandum of Association, and more particularly to acquire certain Inventions and Patent Rights belonging to the Patentee, Mr. John Mann, trading as The Vacuum Electric and Gas Heating Company which has been carried on for experimental purposes in perfecting various appliances for Electric and Gas Heating. The Patent Rights comprise:—

Patent No. 12367/12 for Vacuum Electric Water Heater. Provisional protection granted, complete specification filed.

Patent No. 26485/11 for Electric Flash Boiler Heater. Provisional protection granted, complete specification filed.

Patent No. 27332/11 for Gas Flash Boiler Heater. Provisional protection granted, complete specification filed.

Patent No. 11819/12 for Electric Flash Boiler Heater. Provisional protection granted.

The Company will acquire all the Patentee's Foreign Rights and the benefit of all improvements, and Patents for various foreign countries and colonies will be duly applied for.

OPINIONS ON THE PATENT.

THE SECRETARY,
T. O. R. SYNDICATE, LTD.

37, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.
June 24th, 1912.

DEAR SIR,—In accordance with your instructions we have examined your apparatus and witnessed several practical demonstrations. We think that the method of heating water by a coil surrounded by water or encircling a stream of water, the whole device being encased in a container, should be most conducive to rapid and efficient results and from what we have seen in the demonstrations we think this is fully obtained, and that the same comprises good subject matter for valid patents. The specifications which you have shown us as accompanying the patent applications made we consider sufficient to enable Royal Letters Patent to be obtained in due course.—Yours faithfully,

RAINER AND CO. (Registered Patent Agents).
37, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.
August 8th, 1912.

THE SECRETARY,
THE VACUUM ELECTRIC AND GAS HEATING APPLIANCES, LTD.

DEAR SIR,—Having made a very extensive search among the Patent Office records, covering the Statutory period of 50 years, of which a report in extenso has been forwarded to you, we are of opinion that similar combinations to the inventions embodied in your Patent Applications Nos. 12367 of 1912, 26485 of 1911, 27332 of 1911, 11849 of 1912, have not been disclosed thereby, and therefore that we should obtain the Royal Letters Patents in due course.—Yours faithfully,

RAINER AND CO. (Registered Patent Agents).

PURPOSES TO WHICH THE HEATER CAN BE APPLIED.

For Warming the entire House, Greenhouse, Conservatory, Stables and Garages by means of Steam, Hot Air or Water. It furnishes continual flow of boiling water for all house and domestic purposes. It is also available for Churches, Schools, and generally any Public Building.

For the supply of Hot Water to Lavatories and Kitchens on Trains.

COST OF HEATERS.

Heaters can be supplied (1) for the continuous warming of entire houses, etc., from £12 12s. (not including the necessary piping), at a cost for electricity from ½d. per hour; (2) for immediate continuous flow for bath, from £6 6s.; (3) for immediate continuous flow from tap, from £6 6s.; (4) for ½ gallon, 1 gallon or 2 gallon urn for table, shop or office use, from £1 10s., producing boiling water in 8 minutes; (5) for large urns for businesses, coffee-houses, restaurants, etc., from £2 2s., producing boiling water in 8 minutes. As a guide to prices, etc., an illustrated sheet is enclosed herewith.

These Heaters will therefore be supplied to the public at a very low price, and, compared with less efficient appliances now before the public, the cost will be about one-half. An enormous sale is anticipated.

There is no risk of fusing wires, no air being in contact.

There is no risk of explosion.

There is no risk of fire.

The water is given out as pure as when it enters.

The heating cost is less than that of any other system, and it is claimed has advantages over all other systems of heating by electricity, it being possible to draw off continuous boiling water two minutes after switching on current.

The Heater takes up very much less room than any other.

They may be purchased outright from the Trade or by instalments, and arrangements will be made whereby they may be hired from Electric Lighting and Gas Companies or Corporations.

The electric current for these Heaters is generally supplied at a very nominal figure from the Companies and Corporations supplying it (usually about one-quarter of the usual charge per unit).

The Patents cover also, as will be noted, a Gas Heater, giving results similar to the Electric Heater, for use where Electricity is not available, and applicable to all the purposes mentioned above.

An agreement has been entered into by the Company to retain the services of the Patentee, Mr. John Mann, who is a first-class marine engineer, as Works Manager for a term of five years, and as he is a practical engineer and electrician of high standing, the Company is very fortunate in this respect.

It is confidently anticipated that there will be a minimum yearly sale of 5,000 Heaters for baths and 10,000 Urns, and this with further profit from Heating Contracts should, it is estimated, produce a profit of not less than £35,000, which, after paying for administrative and reserve expenses, would realise a dividend of 20 per cent. on the issued Capital.

The Directors are in negotiation with a French Group for the sale upon advantageous terms to the Company of their French Patents when obtained.

REPORT BY MR. P. SYLVESTER FOX.

29, Holmdale Road, London, N.W.
June 4th, 1912.

J. MANN, ESQ.,
Vacuum Electric and Gas Heating Appliances Co.,
Kilburn, N.W.

DEAR SIR,—With further reference to my visit on Saturday morning last, and the test made upon your Vacuum Lagged Electric Water Heater, I am of the opinion that same is a most useful and efficient apparatus, either as a geyser or hot water circulator, and would satisfactorily answer all the purposes to which such apparatus is usually put. The electric and gas urns also appear to be satisfactory, and should have a large sphere of usefulness, especially for offices and restaurants. The possibilities of this style of apparatus, are, I think, very large, especially in view of the endeavours now being made by Electric Supply Authorities to push the use of electricity for domestic purposes. I shall be glad to hear from you when the articles are ready for the market, and wishing you every success, I remain, yours faithfully,

P. SYLVESTER FOX, A.M.I.E.E.

REPORT BY MR. R. H. LANCASTER, M.I.A.E., A.M.I.M.E.

J. MANN, ESQ.,
Kilburn, N.W.

Craven House, Kingsway, London, W.C.
June 19th, 1912.

DEAR MR. MANN.—With reference to the further tests which I carried out yesterday, I beg to state that I am now quite satisfied that you have a most satisfactory and efficient Electric Water Heater. Its consumption is not excessive, and I am of opinion that if constructed in battery sets you will greatly increase its efficiency and decrease its consumption.

COST OF MANUFACTURE.

I am further of the opinion that if manufactured in quantities its cost should be such that it will allow you to place same on the market at a competitive price against other Electric Heaters, and at the same time show you a handsome profit.—Yours faithfully,

R. H. LANCASTER.

The statements contained in this Prospectus are based upon the above Reports, and also upon facts supplied supplied by the Patentee.

The Articles of Association provide as follows:—

The qualification of a Director shall be the holding of 100 shares as a minimum, and this qualification shall be required as well of the first Directors as of all future Directors, and section 73 of the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908, shall be duly complied with by every Director.

The remuneration of the Directors other than the Managing Director or Directors shall be at the rate of £200 per annum for each Director, with an additional £50 per annum for the Chairman. All remuneration payable under this article shall accrue de die in diem. If any Director being willing shall be called upon to perform extra services or to make any special exertions in going or residing abroad or otherwise for any of the purposes of the Company, the Company shall remunerate such Director either by a fixed sum or by a percentage of profits or otherwise as may be determined by the Directors, and such remuneration shall be either in addition to or in substitution for his other remunerations.

The Directors may from time to time appoint one or more of their body to be Managing Director or Managing Directors at such remuneration as they may think fit, such remuneration may be by way of salary or commission or participation in profits or by any or all of such methods. The following contracts have been entered into:—

(1) Dated July 31st, 1912, between John Mann of the one part and the Company of the other part for the sale of the above-mentioned Inventions, Patent Rights, etc., to the Company for the sum of £30,000 payable as to £15,000 in cash as to £2,500 thereof immediately payable and as to £12,500 thereof payable in three months and the balance in shares of the Company taken at par.

(2) Dated July 31st, 1912, between the Company and the T.O.R. Syndicate, Ltd., whereby the Syndicate agrees to pay the expenses of promotion down to the first general allotment of shares (other than brokerage), and to underwrite 5,000 shares in consideration of the sum of £5,000 in cash payable by the Company.

(3) Dated August 8th, 1912, between the Company and John Mann, whereby the Company secures the services of John Mann as Works Manager upon terms and conditions therein contained.

(4) A letter dated June 28th, 1912, from John Mann, the Patentee, to A. T. Smith.

(5) A Memorandum of Agreement dated June 13th, 1912, between John Mann, A. T. Smith and the T.O.R. Syndicate, Ltd.

The following information is given in compliance with the requirements of the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908.

The minimum subscription on which the Company may go to allotment is fixed by the Articles of Association at 7 shares. The Company formally proceeded to allotment on August 8th, 1912.

The preliminary expenses (exclusive of Brokerage and Underwriting commissions) are estimated at £5,000. No part of the purchase price is payable for Goodwill.

The Vendor and Patentee is Mr. John Mann, of 13, Kilburn Square, London, N.W.

No underwriting by the Company other than £5,000 in Contract 2 has been effected.

The number of shares agreed to be issued as fully paid is 13,000 for the consideration referred to in the first above-mentioned agreement.

None of the Directors are interested in the promotion.

"THUNDEROUS" COMPLAINTS FROM THE NAVY.

ARE GERMAN METHODS BEING INTRODUCED?

Discontent in the Navy seems rampant, and, judging from the complaints we have received from one of the crew of H.M.S. *Thunderer*, it looks as though the men on that vessel were acting up to its name, their discontent venting itself in more than mutterings. Our correspondent, a leading stoker, calls attention to the report of a recent meeting on board. Although it is denied by the authorities, he states that during the manœuvres the cells were all full, that a number of the crew were left behind in prison, and that the vessel is very much undermanned. He also says that work in the stokehole is little better than slavery, there being no relaxation of duty, as when the men come from that hard and trying labour they are employed in drill, etc.—in fact, they have little rest, night or day. Special discontent is felt at the action of two officers of the mess decks (one a senior lieutenant and the other a warrant officer), who, it is alleged, harass the men, and when the crew were supposed to have a half-holiday at the time of the recent review, kept them at work in dirty clothes in the stokeholes. It appears also that, although electric lifts and proper hatches are provided to get from one watertight compartment to the other, these officers make the stokers go by the cramped emergency exits, using the others themselves.

Another charge is made in regard to the quantity and quality of provisions. These have largely to be paid for by the men themselves from their wages of 2s. 1d. per day. Out of this fabulous sum uniform has also to be provided. The assertion that the bacon from the canteen is alive with maggots, that the eggs are rotten, and that the sausages and other "edibles" are putrid, should be brought to the notice of the Admiralty.

(*Continued from page 282.*)

A copy of the Memorandum of Association of the Company, and the names, descriptions and addresses of the signatories, and the number of shares subscribed for by each signatory is printed on and forms part of this Prospectus.

A copy of the Articles of Association of the Company, and the originals or copies of the above-mentioned contracts, reports and other documents can be seen at the office of the Solicitor of the Company by intending applicants for shares on any day while the subscription list is open between the hours of 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

A brokerage of 6d. per share will be paid by the Company on all shares allotted in response to applications by the public bearing Brokers' stamps.

It is intended to apply to the Committee of the Stock Exchange, London, for a special settlement in the shares.

Applications for shares must be made on the accompanying form, and forwarded to the Company's bankers with the amount payable in each case on application.

If no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full, and when the number of shares allotted is less than that applied for, the balance will be applied towards the payment due on allotment, and any excess returned to the applicant.

Failure to pay any instalment when due on shares allotted will render the amounts previously paid liable to forfeiture. Interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum will be charged on all instalments in arrear.

Prospectuses and forms of application can be obtained from the Company's Bankers, Brokers and Solicitor, and at the Registered Office of the Company.

THIS FORM OF APPLICATION FOR SHARES MAY BE CUT OUT AND USED.

This form should be filled up and sent entire to the Company's Bankers, the Capital and Counties Bank, Limited, 335, High Holborn, London, W.C., the Head Office or any of its Branches. All cheques should be crossed and made payable to bearer.

No.....

THE VACUUM ELECTRIC AND GAS HEATING APPLIANCES, LIMITED.

CAPITAL £100,000 in £1 Shares.

65,000 shares are now offered for subscription at par, payable 1s. per share on application, 2s. per share on allotment, 5s. per share one month after allotment, 5s. per share two months after allotment.

TO THE DIRECTORS OF THE VACUUM ELECTRIC AND GAS HEATING APPLIANCES, LTD.

Gentlemen,—Having paid to the Company's Bankers the sum of £ being a deposit of 1s. per share on ..... shares in the above-named Company, I request you to allot me such number of shares on the terms of the Company's prospectus dated 20th August, 1912, and I agree to accept the same or any smaller number that may be allotted to me, and to pay the further sum of 2s. per share on allotment as provided by the said prospectus, and the balance as provided by the said prospectus, and I request you to register me as the holder of such shares.

Name in full .....

(State if Mr., Mrs., or Miss.)

Address .....

Description .....

Date ..... 1912.

Signature .....

Please write distinctly.

JOHN BULL'S POCKET ENCYCLOPÆDIA.

INDISPENSABLE INFORMATION FOR INQUIRING IGNORAMUSES.

D.

DAILY NEWS.—A diurnal account of current events, disseminated either by word of mouth from one person to another or through the medium of certain printed publications called newspapers. So much for the general meaning of the term.

Daily News.—A London newspaper with an interesting editorial, financial and moral history. Its first and most illustrious, if not most successful, editor was Charles Dickens. A series of remarkable proprietorial vicissitudes culminated in its becoming the property of the Cadbury family, well-known Quakers and cocoa manufacturers, of strong Radical propensities. A marked distaste for alcoholic refreshment, and a profound horror of horse-racing and all that appertains thereunto, led its proprietors to bring about some drastic alterations in the make-up of their paper. Liquor advertisements were rigidly excluded from its columns, and its racing editor and turf correspondents were given the condign sack. But the inherent taste of the British public—Liberal, Radical and Conservative—for a half of bitter, and an occasional shilling on a gee, was not to be eradicated by such arbitrary measures. Numbers of life-long Radical readers promptly transferred their allegiance from the *Daily News* to one or other of its rivals that gave the probable winners and the odds; and as a consequence the circulation of the *Daily News* experienced a sudden and alarming drop. A long and anxious struggle for a place in the sun of public favour followed; but the inevitable day arrived when the proprietors of the *Daily News* were called upon to choose finally between principles and popularity. Popularity won. An amalgamation was effected with the *Morning Leader*, whose racing news was one of its most successful features; and under the composite name, *The Daily News and Leader*, the ultra-conscientious organ of Radical opinion reopened its hitherto irreproachable columns to the admission of turf reports, to the scandal and bitter grief of rigid Nonconformity throughout England.

DELUGE.—In the history of the world there have been two great floods or inundations of the earth—that which occurred in the days of Noah, and that which took place during the month of August, A.D. 1912. (*See* English Climate.)

DEMAGOGUE.—A political hypnotist who, by conjuring up visions of rare and refreshing fruits and dangling them before the parched lips of the multitude, and by converting fourpence into ninepence by sleight of hand, the quickness thereof deceiving the eye, rises to high office in the State and draws £5,000 a year from the National purse as long as his spell rests upon the people.

DOOMSDAY-BOOK.—A valuation of the land made by the order of William the Conqueror in 1086–87 and by Mr. Lloyd George in 1911–12. The original Doomsday-book was compiled for feudal purposes; whereas the object of the new edition is to provide the necessary data for the subsequent imposition of "the single tax" on land, from which the whole of the necessary National revenue is to be raised—presently. The advocates of the "single tax" are in the habit of informing the world in strident tones that "God gave the land for the people." It is therefore their intention to take their vast estates out of the hands of the wealthy few, break it up into small pieces, and divide it amongst the impecunious many, who will in consequence find themselves burdened with the task of providing the whole of the National revenue. It is suggested by certain Conservative politicians that the 1911–12 valuation will prove the Doomsday-book of the Radical party in more ways than one. (*See* Henry George, Outhwaite, Crewe, N.W. Manchester, etc.,.etc.)

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

SEE PAGE iii. OF COVER.

IN THE BARBER'S CHAIR.

[Being Conversations in a Barber's Shop, overheard by our Reporter.]

MR. WILLIAM HURLOCK.

Weather looks a bit more promisin', sir; but, tlesshyer, there ain't no dependin' on it. . . . If Lloy George wos to include inshorance against wet weather in the Inshorance Act, 'e might do a bit o' good. . . . You know, sir—inclement weather benefits, five bob a day fur *h*every day it rains, or some sich scheme. . . . I'll guarantee it 'ud do more good then these 'ere Sanatoriums wot 'aven't bin built. . . . I see wot the noospapers call 'is " first victim " wos prosercuted lars week fur disobeyin' the Act . . . a chap called 'Urlock 'e wos . . . a furnisher or somethink, imployin' a lot of 'ands out Walworth way. . . . But I dessay you 'eard erbout it, sir. . . . Quite so; yessir. . . . Seemed a bit queer thet a prominent local Liberal should put 'is back up agin Lloy George an' be the first to be prosercuted, don't it? . . . You may be right, sir. . . . Liberals do now an' agin show a bit of *h*indepondence w'en wot they calls their conscienshus objecshuns is aroused, like. . . . But I've got my own opinion erbout this 'Urlock case. . . . I think there wos more in it then wot met the *h*eye, soterspeak. . . . Well, sir, it ain't *h*easy fur me to explain . . . it's a sorter kinder feelin' I've got erbout it. . . . But I arsk yer, w'y wos a Liberal the first to be prosercuted? . . . Wos it jest charnce or *h*accident, or wos it a put *h*up job on the part of the Charnceller? . . . Minjer, I don't say it wos, but the

'ole thing looks a bit suspishus, to my way o' thinkin'. . . . 'Ere wos a nagitashun agin the Act a-goin' on—imployers of labour orl over the country swearin' they wouldn't lick no stamps not fur nobody; an' Lloy George could see thet *h*unless it wos nipped in the bud there would be a *h*epperdemick of passive resistance like wot there wos erbout the Edgercashun Act. . . . So 'e ses, " Somebody 'll 'ave to be prosercuted, quick! " 'e ses. I dessay 'e torked it over with 'is understrapper, Masterman, the w'itewasher—'oo, by the way, could do with an 'air cut—Will thet be short ernuff, sir? . . . Thank you, sir. . . . Singe?—Yessir. . . . O' corse, I'm on'y supposin', minjer, but I fancies I kin 'ear Lloy George a-sayin' to Masterman, " 'Oo shell we prosercute first, Chawles Frederick, me boy? Shell it be a crusted Tory or wot? "—" No fears! " ses Masterman; " if you do, the public'll say you're a-persecutin' yore political opponents. You'd better start with a prominent Liberal, jest to show there's a-goin' to be a fair field an' no favour erbout this 'ere Act."—" Wot? " ses Lloy George, " prosercute one of *h*our faithful friends? —But p'r'aps you're right. 'Oo can we put it on to? Do you know enny faithful ole Liberal 'ack wot'll let us do the dirty on 'im, soterspeak? "—" Wot erbout ole 'Urlock, o' Walworth? " ses Masterman. " 'E'll do it. We'll make a norrible exarmple of 'im. 'E won't mind. Ennythink fur the good o' the Pawty." . . . Minjer, I ain't a-sayin' thet's wot reely 'appened, but I shouldn't be surprised if it did, or somethink like it. . . . You watch it, sir; you'll see William 'Urlock's name in the Honours List afore long. Thet sorter service don't go unrewarded, so fur as I kin see from watchin' the Pawty game. . . . Ain't you feelin' well, sir? . . . Yessir, the smell o' singed 'air does *h*upset some gents. . . . Thank you; goo'-day, sir.

IN THE DAYS OF THE MENTAL DEFICIENCY BILL.

DESOLATE COUNTRYSIDE AND DESERTED CITIES.

By Walter Moore.

The Mental Deficiency Bill having passed through all its stages and become an Act, the officials appointed to carry out its provisions figuratively threw their coats aside, turned up their shirt-sleeves, and got right down to the work.

Their first task was to provide accommodation for their quarry when they had roped them in. To this end a vast building was swiftly erected in each county, and manned with a vast army of doctors, nurses and domestics.

Of course, a beginning was made with the poor. Armed with the authorised definition of feeble-mindedness, which includes all those who *cannot prove* that they are capable of competing on equal terms with their normal fellows, and all those who *cannot prove* that they are capable of managing their affairs with ordinary prudence, the host of officials went forth into the highways and by-ways of the towns and cities, and into the lanes and quiet places of the villages and countryside, seeking whom they might arrest for the new crime. So many persons were apprehended on the grounds of inability *to prove* themselves capable of competing on equal terms with their normal fellows, that a special batch of magistrates was appointed to adjudicate in the cases. The officials under the Act, naturally anxious to obtain convictions and thus earn promotion, interpreted their powers widely enough to embrace the whole of the " submerged tenth " or lowest strata of the social structure. For, they argued, if these people were capable of competing on equal terms with their normal fellows, by whom must be meant the healthy, intelligent, and prosperous middle classes, they certainly would not have been in the degraded condition in which we found them. Asked by the magistrate whether they could prove themselves capable of competing on equal terms with their fellows, they invariably replied, " Give us the chance! " And as invariably received the magisterial retort, " You have had the chance all your life. I sentence you to detention for the term of your natural life in an asylum for the mentally deficient."

At this stage it became necessary to erect a further batch of gigantic buildings throughout the country; for a determined effort was next made to segregate the vast army of men and women who *could not prove* that they were capable of managing their affairs with ordinary prudence. Forthwith whole suburbs were depopulated, it being argued by the officials under the Act that no person could claim to be possessed of ordinary prudence in the management of his affairs whilst he dwelt in a £40 a year villa, kept a domestic servant, obtained a piano on the hire-purchase system, and wore a silk hat and spats to the City whilst in receipt of a salary of only £150 a year or less. Common prudence in the management of his affairs demanded another style of living altogether. Sentence, detention for life.

Fifty per cent. of the married clerks in the City of London thus found themselves segregated, torn from their nearest and dearest, and lodged like lunatics behind bolts and bars, their crime—ambition, of a sort; the desire to keep up appearances; pride in their wife, their children, and their home; and a faint tinge of financial recklessness in their composition. But, judged by the inexorable logic of the law, these things stamped them as being incapable of managing their affairs with common prudence—and—well, an Act is an Act, you know.

So many feeble-minded or mentally deficient bread-winners were thus seized and thrown into life-long confinement that it became a serious problem what to do with the dependants, wives and children they formerly supported. But at last the Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Home Office was struck with a brilliant idea. " Since," he said, " these wives and children have been deprived of their former means of support, and are thrown helpless on the world, surely they come under the definition of persons incapable of competing on equal terms with their normal fellows. They are within the meaning of the Act. Segregate them." And it was done accordingly.

Oh, what a happy land was England!

Sound advice for the wife, daughter, or fiancée given by MRS. BULL. Consult her always.

GREAT FIGHT BY WILLIAMS' TEETH INSTITUTE AGAINST HIGH PRICES FOR ARTIFICIAL TEETH

GREAT "TEETH-AID" CAMPAIGN.

4 SPLENDID ADVANTAGES for those with Teeth Troubles.
SEND NOW FOR FREE BOOK.

1. ADVICE FREE TO ALL
2. DEFERRED PAYMENTS CAN BE ARRANGED.
3. ABSOLUTELY PAINLESS EXTRACTIONS.
4. FIVE YEARS' WARRANTY.

See how Williams' Teeth beautify.

This well-known London Firm decides to supply complete sets from 15/-

5 Years' Warranty.

A revolutionary move has been decided upon by the Williams' Teeth Institute. Briefly, they have issued a declaration of war against the excessively high prices for Artificial Teeth and Tooth Work, which have too long reigned in this country.

Public invited to see Specimens of the Work of Williams' Dental Institute.

Here is the new low-price scale of charges drawn up by the Directors for the benefit of the public:—

Teeth Painlessly Extracted	1s. 0d.
(Or with Gas)	2s. 0d.
Decayed Teeth Stopped	2s. 0d.
Single Artificial Tooth	2s. 0d.
Complete Set of Artificial Teeth from	15s. 0d.
Gold Filling	10s. 6d.

Gold Crowns equally cheap. Bridge and Bar Work a Speciality. Just compare the above with the much higher fees charged elsewhere for similar or even inferior work, and note the difference.

Note the disfiguring effects of missing teeth.

IS NOT THIS A REVOLUTION

well worth making? A reform to gladden all who want new teeth or who want to keep their teeth in good order, but cannot afford to pay the excessive prices hitherto charged.

People have allowed their teeth to slowly decay, deteriorate, and break away rather than pay the prices charged for filling, repairing, and extracting.

And consequently they have seriously suffered in Health, as Medical testimony shows. For bad teeth, bad breath, bad digestion, and bad health all go together; the bad teeth being the source from which all the other evils spring.

WONDERFUL REDUCTION IN PRICES.

For who will pay 2s. 6d. for having a tooth out (or 5s. or 7s. 6d. with gas) when at Williams' Teeth Institute they can have it extracted for 1s.?

Who will consent to be mulcted in heavy charges for a set of artificial teeth and then be kept waiting for weeks before they are fitted, when at this well-known London establishment they can be supplied with a complete first-class set for 15s., and if necessary can be paid for by instalments?

No, for those troubled with their teeth—whether men, women, or children—all roads in the future will lead to Williams' Teeth Institute, and Londoners are, indeed, fortunate in having such an up-to-date establishment in their midst. Write, then, to-day for valuable book "GOOD TEETH FOR ALL." IT WILL BE SENT YOU FREE. Or call at your earliest convenience at the Williams' Teeth Institutes, 141, Newington Causeway, London, S.E., or 293, Gray's Inn Road, King's Cross, W.C. You will be shown specimens of the beautiful work of the Institute, and be given advice on the care of the teeth free.

Don't miss this opportunity. If you suffer from any kind of Teeth Troubles write or call to-day. Trams and 'buses from all parts pass the Institutes.

Country Patients can have their teeth extracted and be fitted and supplied with new ones the same day.

DEFERRED PAYMENTS CAN BE ARRANGED.

Williams'
DENTAL SURGERY

Hours:
10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturdays.
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

141, NEWINGTON CAUSEWAY, LONDON, S.E. (only a few doors from Elephant and Castle), **and 293, GRAY'S INN ROAD, KING'S CROSS, N.**

[D. B. & C.

ANTICIPATED EPITAPHS.

By W. M.

[In this column we give from week to week an anticipated —always good-humoured—Epitaph of some celebrity of the day. We need scarcely say we hope it will be many years before his relatives will have to consider seriously our suggestion.]

Thys
Monumente
Was erecktd
Bye
A number of hys sorrowynge cuftomers
Toe perpetuate ye memorie
Of
Thomas Parker,
A worthie greengrocer
Of
Swadlincote,
In ye countie of Derbyshyre.
Born
Noe matter whenne,
Hee,
Atte an earlie age,
Tooke uppe ye studie of fruit and vegetables,
Makynge carefull refearches intoe
Ye flavour and general charackterifticks
Of ye wilde blackberrie,
And cheerfullie endurynge stomackick difcomforte
Whenne hys scientifick ardour
Occafioned ye confumpcion of green apples
And unrype plummes.
In mannehoode
He fulfilled ye promyfe of hys yoothe
Bye going inn for ye greengrocerie trade
Inn alle its branches.
By unremittynge induftrie
And
Honourable dealynges wythe alle and sundrie
Hee worked uppe a profperous bufinefs
And became
One of ye moft highlie refpeckted tradefmen
Of
Swadlincote.
Although in politicks a Confervatyve,
Hee
Wifelie enough,
Made noe partickular parade of hys principles;
Confequentlie
Itt was noe surpryze toe hys friendes
Whenne he received from ye Lord Chancellor
A notice that he had been appointed toe ye magifterial benche.
Butte,
Alas for human felicitie,
There dwelt atte ye tyme in Swadlincote
Another
THOMAS PARKER,
A leadynge Liberal lyghte
And
Chayremanne of ye Paryfh Council,
Whoo conceived ye idea
Thatte some-one hadde blundered
Atte headquarters,
And thatte hee
And notte hys namefake ye greengrocer
Was intended for ye honour,
In ye whych contencion hee was warmlie supported
Bye ye locale Liberals,
For obvious reafons.
Ye greengrocer,
Havynge poffeffion of ye documentes,
At first resisted ye claim of
Ye ether Thomas Parker,
But
Found discretion the better part of valour,
And dyed
A Simple Grocer.

When Parker Parker meets, you may be sure,
As wyth ye Greeks, thenne comes ye tugge of warre!

SHAVALLO

(SHAVE-ALL-O),

THE IDEAL SHAVING SOAP

with either hot or cold water.

Ivorine Sticks, 1s. each;
smaller sticks, 6d. each;
Cakes, 4½d. each.

LARGEST SALE

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Soapmakers to H.M. King George V.

LONDON, E.

Send a penny stamp for Free Sample to Dept. "J.B."

BUCHANAN'S WHISKY

"BLACK —&— WHITE"

The Highest Standard of QUALITY.

WOULD YOU LIKE ONE OF THESE CHARMING WRISTLET WATCHES FREE?

Then send six stamps only for a full-sized tablet of the delightful

ADORI Toilet Soap

to ADORI (Dept. S.J. HENRIETTA STREET, LONDON. W.C.

EAVESDROPPING AT THE 'PHONE.

BY OUR PET "HELLO" GIRL.

II.—RITCHIE ENRAGED.

"Hallo! . . . Are you there? . . . No, miss, not yet. Try again, please. . . . Hallo! . . . Yes, yes. . . . That you, Churchill? I'm Ritchie. . . . No, not wretched—Ritchie. . . . I say I'm RITCHIE—Sir James Ritchie . . . *you* know."

"Ah, yes; of course. . . . How are you, Sir James? I'm glad you've rung me up. . . . Let me see, we had a little correspondence recently, did we not?"

"That's what I've rung you up about. . . . (*Burrrrr-zip!*) . . . I say that's what I've rung you up about. . . . Hallo! . . . *Are* you there?"

"Would you mind speaking a little louder, Sir James?"

"I'll try; but I'm shouting as it is. . . . (*Blob-blob-blob-blob-buzzzz-zip!*) It's about the recent correspondence of ours—or, at least, of *yours*. Now, look here, Churchill, I'm a sound Liberal and all that sort of thing, and I don't mind putting myself to inconvenience for the good of the cause. But I *do* object to being made a tool of. I don't like it. I haven't made any public protest, for the sake of the Party; but I thought I had better let you know that a repetition of your recent proceedings will profoundly annoy me. . . . Are you there?"

"Yes, yes; I'm here all right—but I don't quite follow you, Sir James."

"I'm referring to the use you made of my name when sending your recent effusion to the newspapers. If you wanted a row with Bonar Law and Carson, that was your business; but what the deuce did you want to drag me in for? It made me look a perfect ass! What the devil did you want to address your letters to me for? They contained nothing of interest to me. . . . You were simply talking 'at' Bonar Law and Carson all the time. Then why drag me in?"

"I—er—scarcely know what to say, Sir James. . . . You have quite taken me by surprise. I had no idea you would object to being made the vehicle for my lectures to the Ulster rebels. . . . Indeed, I thought you would appreciate the prominence it gave you."

"Prominence be damned! . . . What? . . . No, miss; you are quite mistaken. . . . I was remarking that the weather continues damp. . . . Hallo! . . . Are you there, Churchill? . . . Look here, don't do it again. Address your verbose letters to *The Times* next time, not to me. Do you understand?"

"Yes, yes! . . . *All* right, Sir James. As you do not appreciate the honour I did you in addressing documents of historic importance . . . (*tactactactac-burrrr-blob-blob-zip!*) . . . I say, as you do not appreciate the honour——"

"You've had six minutes. . . . I must cut you off now."

"Miss! . . . *Miss!* . . . just a moment. . . . Are you there, Sir James? . . ."

"No, this is JOHN BULL. . . . Who are you?"

"*Wrong number. . . . !*"

PENSIONERS, PLEASE NOTE.

HINTS TO APPLICANTS FOR COMMUTATION.

A number of pensioners from time to time write and ask us if they can commute their pensions—"get a lump sum down," as they usually put it—so the following extract from the War Office instructions should be useful:—

> At least two letters from persons of good standing, and preferably of official position, stating why in their opinion commutation would be to your distinct and permanent advantage, should be submitted. If you have a wife, her written consent to the commutation must be annexed on a separate paper of any size, and her signature must be witnessed by the clergyman of your parish or church, or by some other responsible person.

Then follows a series of 26 questions of an exacting nature, and it is pointed out that misrepresentation or concealment will render the man liable to the forfeiture of part or the whole of his pension.

To satisfy the official requirements is almost as difficult as entering the Kingdom of Heaven!

THE WONDERFUL HUMAN MACHINE.

If you had a real, fine watch, and some part of its mechanism broke, would you try to mend it by filling it with oil? No! You would take it to the best watchmaker you knew and have him find the cause of the trouble and repair it.

Your body is a far more delicate mechanism than any watch. It is the most complicated machine on earth, yet when some vital part breaks down, or fails to work properly, you try to make it go by dosing yourself with poisonous drugs.

Your heart, stomach, liver and kidneys are run by a power called nerve force. Nerve force is just another name for Electricity. When any of these organs break down, or get out of order, sickness or disease results. Now, you can't cure the trouble until you remove the cause—repair the part that is broken. The only way to do this is to give Nature the power to do it. All you need is motive power—electricity. You can't get that from drugs. Our method is to restore this electricity, and pain and disease will disappear. That's Nature's way of curing.

We have harnessed a powerful but soothing current of electricity into a body appliance made of dry-cell batteries. It gives strength, vim, new vitality to your nerves, stomach, or other part that may be weak. This battery is not an electric belt—it does not shock. It cures every evidence of weakness in men and women.

GET IT FREE.

We'll send you our illustrated 80-page book, closely sealed, free, telling how you can cure yourself at home. Write at once if you cannot call for a free test at the office. Do it now—to-day.

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(Dept. 41), 25, Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C.

CALVERT'S
CARBOLISED
Shaving Soap

proves how much the lather can contribute to the comfort of a shave, as the razor goes cleanly and smoothly over the face, meeting no excessive resistance, even from a strong growth of beard, and, therefore, neither scraping nor tearing the skin.

Tenpence a stick from your Chemist. Sample post free for threepence from F. C. Calvert & Co. (Dept. 2) Manchester

GREAT WHITE CITY,
10.30 A.M. TILL 10.30 P.M. ADMISSION 1/-; CHILDREN 6D.
LATIN-BRITISH EXHIBITION
SHEPHERD'S BUSH, W.

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Wonderful display of French Dresses, Decorative and Applied Arts. The Fine Art of France, Italy, Spain and Great Britain.

Al-Fresco Musical Programmes including 12 Foreign Troupes of Singers.

The New Merryland with its Thrilling Street of Adventure and a 1,000 Novelties and Surprises.

SONG POEMS WANTED.
YOU MAY BE ABLE TO WRITE A HIT.

Hundreds of dollars have been made in successful songs. Send us your WORDS or MELODIES. Acceptance guaranteed if available. Washington only place to secure a copyright. H. Kirkus Dugdale Co., Desk 514, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

DRAMA OF TO-DAY.

By M. Clement Scott.

"To Close, or Not to Close."

It is all very well for the rich—who can order their motor-cars and take Sunday off as a day for rest, visiting or pleasure-going—to cry, "Close up every place of entertainment on the Sabbath"; but what about the hard-worked men and women who toil daily from early morning until after sunset and cannot get beyond the suburban radius? A good many years have passed since the first attempt was made to sweeten the outlook of our "Sour-faced Sunday," and now that the picture palaces have arrived to cheer us still more and give us a few hours of happy and harmless amusement, doesn't it smack rather of the dog-in-the-manger policy for theatrical and music-hall managers to say, "*Well, we don't really want to open our shows on Sunday, but if cinematograph entertainments are allowed, then we shall be obliged to open our houses too, but for preference we should like the whole lot of these things closed*"? On the seventh day of the week we must have food and drink, and would any man deny himself the pleasure of a pipe, a cigarette, or a cigar? Why should people (married ones particularly) with nowhere to go to on our beautiful (?) English day of recreation, sit snarling and snapping at one another at "Home, Sweet Home," from the sheer want of something better to pass the time away? When those large-hearted champions, Messrs. Morell and Mills, fought so hard for freedom, the programme of the National Sunday League was a fairly comprehensive one. Generous-minded noblemen helped the movement. The dearest companion of my life was amongst the first to join a Sunday League excursion train to Arundel Park, placed at our disposal by the Duke of Norfolk. The late Duke of Westminster and many more held out the hand of good-fellowship, and the *Daily Telegraph* helped the movement with all the power of its mighty organisation. And now that, in spite of foolish and obstinate opposition, foot by foot we have overcome all obstacles, and we have first-class concerts, military bands and the best musicians to give delight to thousands and thousands who otherwise might have been driven from necessity to seek shelter, warmth and companionship in the public-houses—suddenly with the advent of the cinematograph shows there is a shout of "Halt!" No one, so far as I know, has ever advocated a real Continental Sunday, with race-meetings and such-like, in this insular country of ours; no one insists on the opening of theatres, shops, or music-halls; no one prevents you from going to church or chapel; and there is surely no reason why those who have already been to these places of worship should not end up the evening by listening to the strains of lovely melodies, or feasting their eyes on pictures describing interesting stories or delightful scenery. It is a mistake to try to check the pleasant state of things now existing for Londoners doomed to spend their only few hours of relief from labour in the great metropolis. The Sunday League concerts and the cinematograph shows are a blessing to the poor and the lonely, and should be encouraged, not condemned.

OH, FOR A BUSINESS GOVERNMENT!

A SOLICITOR'S WAIL.

We have received the following letter from a leading London solicitor:—

While the whole business of winding up estates is greatly delayed by the efforts of the Inland Revenue to grapple with the arrears of land valuation, a vast amount of time is being wasted in enquiries about the deaths of quite young people. Every solicitor is accustomed by now to receive daily enquiries as to the death of his older clients. It *does* seem to me that some effort might be made to concentrate on the urgent business instead of sending out these ridiculous enquiries. Again, why should my time be wasted in telling the Inland Revenue whether people are alive when they can search their own Registry?

Of course, the idea suggested in the last sentence of our correspondent's letter would never occur to a Government Department under the existing system.

BULL'S EYES.

Notes of Interrogation:—

Has the Insurance Act come to "stop"?

Does P. C. B. (Panama Canal Bill) also mean "Pay Cash, Britain"?

Hasn't Ulster fairly got its choler up?

Did the Australians do their best to "urn" the "ashes"?

Did Mr. Hammerstein find "giving" grand opera in London rather a "sell"?

If there is any gold in Wales, isn't Lloyd George the man to get it out?

The Marquis of Anglesey, since his marriage, possesses charming Manners.

Rope horse-shoes are being used in Germany to prevent slipping. The animals are, we suppose, held up by the toe.

An American girl, it is alleged, can see through a wall. We are glad she isn't our servant.

A contemporary has been discussing whether a golfer plays better in braces or a belt. Just now sportsmen prefer a brace.

Bad fielders need not be alarmed at the heading, "The Unsafe Catch." It refers to railway carriages.

Colours are best for babies, we are told. But most mothers still prefer them white.

Mr. S. A. T. Rowlatt will now sit—as a judge.

A farming correspondent blames rooks for spreading foot-and-mouth disease. Caws—and effect.

"Wickets Cheap," says a cricket heading. Many byes?

"Airmen at Cricket," reads a headline. We should think they would be too fond of "skiers."

In the Swiss canton of Valais, motor-cars on high roads must be preceded by a horseman. This is "the limit."

Snuff-taking, says a medical authority, has a narcotic effect. But it makes the novice smart!

The crop of tramps this season is reported to be very poor. There has been too much water about.

A self-starting motor is the latest aeroplane development. The self-stopping variety is no novelty.

A man tried to stop a runaway horse in Fleet Street by striking it with an umbrella. Perhaps he thought it was the best thing to control the reins.

Although county cricket matches next year are to begin on Fridays, they will not all be Fry days.

THE CAMPAIGN OF 1912.

(*With apologies to the Pell Mell Gazette, 15th August*, 1812.)

It was Sunday.

* * *

Napoleon's host lay south of the plains.

* * *

The summer was silent along the plains.

* * *

Napoleon, when he had slept—awoke. He rose early, very early—even before sunrise; the earliest sunrise of the year. His horse shied, a Roman would have gone back—backwards. A crab sideways.

* * *

It was Monday morning—not Sunday.

* * *

When he had grasped the great river and its tributary with the shadow of his left hand, the Emperor rode back, backwards.

* * *

He ate meat and drank wine.

* * *

He grew lighter in mind and gayer; a fatigue struck him; he lay motionless but not asleep.

* * *

He lay there winking and humming a song sung by a girl in Paris.

* * *

He lay on Russian ground, there was nobody to resist him.

* * *

The tragedy had begun.

* *

In the elegant language of the Hilarious Bullock,

Tosh.

The Popular Song—"The Land of Someday."—Words and Music—

LETTERS FROM JANE ANN.

[Being communications from a young person to her friends and relations.]

By MOORE ANKING.

NANTYPWLLARNY,
RHWDUDLANGOCH.

DEAR MOTHER,—Seems funny I should be wafted to Wales, don't it? Fancy your little Jinny air-ing herself on the blooming hills and all like that. Fair caw-shun, ain't it? Only I got to pur-sue my bread and butter, ain't I, mother? Got to have some-thing to keep me fit, so's I shall be strong when Bert gives the sig-nal.

Now we've got here, our old house-keeper is that happy you wouldn't cred-dit. She's took to reed-ing about castles and things, so's she can tell us girls all about their past. Be a bit of all right if she was to tell us about her own. What? I try to treet her with proper respeckt mother, 'cause I dessay she's en-titled to it in a way, only I do wish she'd have a bit of sense.

Twice she's had us up on the hill where the Hark rested, but we couldn't hear any-thing, only an in-ternal rum-bling telling us it was tea-time.

I'll bet she makes us go pad-dling round the old castles when she knows where they are. As if any-body wanted to dive into fusty old cup-boards, just to see where Dafydd ap Rottyn's family kept the dust-bin and boiled the soup. One thing, mother, if she takes us on the ramparts I'll see that you have a nice bunch of wool.

I don't quite know what she means, 'cause she's such a funny old cuck-oo, but she says now us girls are in Wales if we don't be-have we shall have to eat the leak. I s'pose that's only her joke. How-ever, so long as we don't have to eat the pot where the leak comes from we shall sur-vive.

That re-minds me, mother. Don't you go and use that little black kettle you got—that one with the warty spout. I left it stood on the butter-sawcer in the back-kitchen, and you may think it's all right, but it isn't.

I don't want to de-ceive you mother nor yet tell you no lies, but last time Bert was at our house the bottom of it got afire or something. What with Bert acting silly like he does at times, and me being ajjitated too I 'xpect I never noticed anything amiss till I sud-denly remem-bered I'd put the kettle on the gas-ring with nothing in its inside.

I greeve to say it, mother, but I'm afraid you'll find the butter-dish cracked too, when you lift the kettle off. It was to hide the crack in the thing made me put the kettle on it. Way it got broke was quite by accident. Bert was reech-ing out for some-thing and the sawcer got in the way. I s'pose there must have been a flaw in it, because it only feel off the table once.

Bert's such a one to reech out for things, and I can't always be watching him. Takes me all my time to watch myself.

I can't quite make Bert out, mother, he don't seem to be quite the thing somehow. Seems to be springing up like a boy sprout. Makes me afraid some-times he'll get beyond con-trol.

He seems that absent-minded, too, I'm beginning to think he's studdying too much. It's all very well for him to want to drive the van, 'stead of hanging on behind, but he didn't ought to upset his siss-tem, it ain't worth it.

Only the other day, I hap-pened to men-shun about some lace of mine getting dam-miged, and he gave me a piece out of his boot to mend it with. I do wish you'd per-swade him to have a bottle of medsin from the dis-pensary. No use him letting his con-stitushun go to rack and ruin for the sake of thrippunse.

So's you shan't be out of pocket over buying a new kettle and sawcer, mother, I'm putting two ha'penny stamps in this letter. They been used once but they don't seem any the worse. I thought it a shame they should be wasted, and you p'raps having to stick the butter in an egg-cup, and with nothing to boil your water in. I don't want a lot of thanks, mother, you're only getting your rights.

x x x With love and affeckshun, x x
JANE ANN.

THE SEA SERPENT.

Some Proceedings of the Dulborough Literary and Scientific Society.

By RICARDO.

A special meeting of the members of this Society was convened to consider and discuss a remarkable report by *Mr. Sappy*, who has just returned from his vacation. The sea serpent was the subject of his remarks, and it appears that he had actually seen this dreadful creature; hence the hurried meeting.

Mr. Sappy said wise men and travellers had ever been the butt of contumely and derision, and he quite expected his story would be derided, but not, he was sure, by the present company. (*Hear, hear.*) His friends knew his character too well to dream that he would tell them of anything but his own honest belief and of what he had seen with his own eyes. He stood there before the members of a justly famous literary and scientific society, and he desired to state how he had seen the sea serpent. (*Sensation.*) No wonder they were moved in their seats; he had been stirred to his soul. It happened at Hastings, after supper. His friends knew him as an abstemious man, and he assured them he had not been indulging on this remarkable occasion. His tea had been simple, just two or three cups of hot tea, some sardines, toast, jam, and that kind of thing. For supper he had only a lobster, cucumber, cheese, and so on. Feeling not very well and in need of fresh air, he went for a stroll along the front before seeking his virtuous couch. It was then he saw the sea serpent. The monster seemed to be resting on the bosom of the ocean, opposite the Palace Hotel. It was of enormous length; it had fiery red eyes, a body hundreds of feet long so far as could be seen, for part of it only was on top of the water, the remainder, together with the tail, being submerged. He ran down to the beach to get a nearer view, when the thing suddenly snorted, emitted a cloud of vapour, and rushed away into the darkness. He was ready to make an affidavit as to this experience, which he thought conclusively proved the existence of this hitherto fabled creature. The sea serpent had now been seen by some of the most intelligent people in England, including Miss Rider Haggard and himself, and should now be recognised as an existing fact.

Mr. Numskull asked if Mr. Sappy had mentioned the matter to people in Hastings, and if he had any corroborative evidence.

Mr. Sappy said he related his experience the next day, when people, ignorant and rude, suggested he had either dreamed it, or that what he saw was a pleasure steamer departing after leaving her passengers at the pier. Such remarks were beneath contempt. (*Hear, hear.*) As regarded corroborative evidence, he believed that Society would accept his word, whatever one or two mean spirits might suggest. (*Applause.*)

Mr. Brainy said that, in the name of their Society, he begged to accept Mr. Sappy's remarkable statement in its entirety and to thank him for it, and for the light it shed upon a much-debated point in natural history. It was absurd to suggest, as some persons did, that the sea serpent as seen by intelligent men was nothing but a shoal of porpoises, a lot of seagulls, or a succession of flying fish. If ever they had doubted before, they doubted no longer, for they had the solemn declaration of an acute observer like Mr. Sappy. He, the speaker, thought the Zoological Society should at once employ divers to explore the ocean bed at spots where the sea serpent was seen, beginning at Hastings. Careful search by competent men should result in the capture of at least one of these strange creatures, and he ventured to think that a sea serpent in captivity would be a great attraction to the Zoo. (*Applause.*)

Mr. Numskull remarked it was well known that the sea serpent appeared only in the silly season, when the papers were glad to print anything.

Mr. Sappy repelled the insinuation with scorn. As a proof, he stated he had sent a description of what he saw to many daily papers, and not one had taken the least notice of his communications.

Given with every copy of this week's MRS. BULL

JOHN BULL'S LETTER BAG.

[The EDITOR replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when forwarding cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when writing regarding previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES *received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag," and* ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "bizzuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write name and address upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IS ATTACHED TO THE MANUSCRIPT. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. *The most suitable lengths for articles and stories are about 750 words (one column), or 1,500 words (a page).*

The EDITOR *cannot express any opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be forwarded in the first instance.*

G. W. (London).—We have no reason to credit the current rumour as to certain members of the Government having made a fortune out of Marconis. If it be true, they must have got out of their shares in the nick of time.

"NOTORIOUS POLYGAMIST" says a sailor cannot afford to have more than one wife "on his wages these times, considering what Hobble Skirts and Lancer Plumes cost nowadays. If you mean free love," he continues, "there ain't any in the River Plate, where I trade." What! not among the fishes? We fear we cannot give him a wrinkle "how to be notoriously polygamous" on his wages. We suppose the "wife in every port" yarn belongs to the good old days, and can no longer be told of the Marines.

R. B. (Richmond) wants to know whether suspended Members of Parliament continue to receive their salaries. Why not? Most of them are more useful out of the House.

A NUMBER OF FIREMEN AT MENDOZA (Argentine Republic) complain of the treatment they receive out there. They have sent us a sort of round robin, stating that "the people are very insulting, both to men and women, and children too, and we Britishers are treated more like dogs than human beings." Why don't the dogs bite?

"A HOUSEMAID" (Southampton) is very annoyed because she comes under the Shops Act. In fact, she seems disposed to become a sort of Ben Tillett down the area. She knows of somebody whose husband was taken ill and "she was refused to go and see him when she asked for another hour." This sounds very harsh, but, of course, if every employer allowed servants to go out on every pretext of illness, there would be very little work done, at any rate, in the office. Her conclusion, however, is different. She says, "from my experience here it would have drove a good many girls on the streets." Our correspondent would do well to cultivate a sense of proportion.

K. K. (Portsmouth) is a eugenist who is very angry with Mr. Vivian for his recent article. She asks whether he "has been in close contact with epileptic imbeciles and the feeble-minded, generally." How can we say?

W. H. P. (Byfield) says, "kindly tell me how many lawyers there are in prison." It would be easier to tell him how many there ought to be.

L. P. (Stoke Newington) sends us some very dark hints as to why suffragists do not object to prison. *Honi soit.*

R. C. (Southampton) asks why he had to contribute one shilling for lost silver, when the White Star Co. has not yet paid him sixpence towards the loss of his clothes on the *Titanic*. He had better consult Mr. Ismay.

A. F. (Leicester) writes: "Is Marie Corelli married? I hope this is of general interest." As a matter of fact it interests only three persons, but the answer is, we believe, in the negative.

T. B. K. (Leicester).—We believe a village postmaster receives a shilling in the £ commission on the sale of stamps. That is why he is so rich.

L. G. J. (Caversham) points out that by Section 19 of the Insurance Act "every man who receives the thirty bob when his wife has a child will have the pleasure of having his home and wife inspected for four weeks, by—probably—some snivelling old woman of one sex or the other, and if in the opinion of such Inspector adequate provision has not been made for care and maintenance he will be run in with the chance of getting one month's hard labour." We must be careful.

"A LOVER OF PLUCK" sends a very graphic description of an incident in one of the chief thoroughfares of Burton-on-Trent. "Two powerful dogs had been set on to fight, by a mischievous lad. It was a most terrible scene. The under dog was being done to death, while the other had terrible injuries. At last a lady who had been ill for a week rushed out *en dishabille*, and seizing hold of the top dog's collar, managed, after a severe struggle, to part them. There were a thousand or more people looking on, and though the lady appealed passionately for assistance, no man responded. It was no wonder that the lady addressed the crowd very bitterly, as cowards." How soothing! Anyhow, it is very dangerous to interfere with top dogs.

S. N. (Bayswater) is a Russian, who has been living in this country for 24 years, and is disgusted because the Home Secretary has refused him naturalisation. He asks if we "could inform him why there should be any objection to his being refused." We can see none.

W. F. (Crawley) is annoyed because some suffragists have taken a farm, and escaped taxation by living in portable huts. If the huts are portable the solution is easy. But why worry anyone to pay taxes when an illegal Parliament can give no authority to collect them?

J. P. (Leytonstone).—Only the outermost barbarians use a married woman's initials or Christian names when writing to her. She is Mrs. Jim Crow, not Mrs. Ethelbunga Crow. The kind of person guilty of such a solecism would probably have letter-paper with the name of his house in invested commas: "Colney Hatch," Great Missenden.

M. F. G. (Glasgow) writes: "Please say in your paper why you will not answer my short letter." Probably because it was too stupid; but we do not recollect it. How many times are we to repeat that we do not invite correspondence, and only answer letters of general interest?

"RAILWAY" says that, since the early part of the strike, it has been the daily custom to smuggle hundreds of free labourers along the railway line and through a side gate, so that they may enter the docks without using the main road. That, however, is merely the fraternisation of employers and "blacklegs." "But," says our correspondent, "the most disgusting part of the performance is to see the staff (and sometimes the Dock Police) running about holding tin cans soliciting coppers from these so-called free labourers." We do not see why "blacklegs" should not be bled.

WILL "Mary Lawrence" please send full address? We cannot help without.

C. N. (Stoke-on-Trent) writes:—"Please say what political party the League supports." How cruel to ask this after all these years!

T. S. thinks "the disastrous secrecy attached to the human body" is responsible for the White Slave Traffic. He points out that no other animal wears clothes, but he does not convince us of the morality of dogs and cats.

L. R. (N. Kensington) says advertisements with box-office numbers are usually bogus.

E. M. R. (Plymouth) is shocked by the immorality there. He was horrified to see barmaids smoking, but that is not very damaging evidence.

"LILY" (Southport).—We do not know how a man can be prevented from entering a lunatic asylum, even if he does want to shirk his domestic duties.

W. R. W.—All right; Crow forgives you. No one can be rude to him.

J. L. A. (Saltash).—We should give a wide berth to boot companies who invite you to dispose of their coupons.

G. W. B. (Prison de la Santé, Paris).—We are sorry for your trouble, but do not see how we can help you. While accepting your statement about your good family and good character, we can only pity you for the consequences of keeping bad company. Police reports are so mysterious that we cannot attempt to fathom their origin.

A. M. (Johannesburg) having complained that he cannot obtain boots ordered from H. J. Gasson (Rye), we communicated with the latter, who says he did not receive remittance for postage but despatched the boots all the same.

F. W. (Upper Holloway) AND OTHERS.—As we have previously explained, we are not medical experts, and can give no opinion as to the efficacy of the Elmer Shirley treatment. They have, however, shown us an enormous number of testimonials, and have also produced to us evidence that, provided their conditions are complied with, they return the money in the case of dissatisfaction. We do not know whether they are connected with any other firm.

A. A. L. C. (Portsea).—We are afraid the I.P.A. has gone the way of all flesh—and devils.

O. T. D. (Pangbourne).—Whether a Member accepts his salary or not, he is still, in our opinion, the holder of an office of profit under the Crown.

L. I. A. (London).—We are assured by the late Secretary that all subscriptions sent to the abortive Terry Club were returned. If you have not received yours, you should endeavour to find the founder, a Mr. Casson, whose last address, as given to us, was Abingdon Mansions, Kensington.

D. T. E. (Carmarthen) sends us particulars of Prudential methods in his district, in connection with the Insurance Act. It is the same old story!

C. B. S., who was an Assistant Engineer on the *S.S. Lingan*, wrote asking our Editor for one of his photos and immediately after it arrived he was promoted to the position of Chief Engineer of the vessel. Good luck to him—but what a rush there will be on our photos now! He sent us one of his own in return, together with a group of his happy mates—to whom we wait our greetings.

J. N. (Yorks.).—The usual way the story is told is that the parson found no kernel at all!

T. W. (Madras) sends a programme, which concludes:—

GOD SAVE THE KING EMPEROR.
Subject to alteration if necessary.

How very disloyal!

"A. DISHER" is inappropriately named, for he will not dish us. He thinks we have dished up his ideas and therefore owe him £155. Some five years ago he advertised in an Irish paper, "Disher is looking for an honest man," and they kicked him out of Dublin soon after. No wonder, if he insulted them like that. We know plenty of honest men, but few MEN. He writes, "For God's sake, Bottomley, make a start to clear the London atmosphere of the habitual use of bad language." What is bad language?

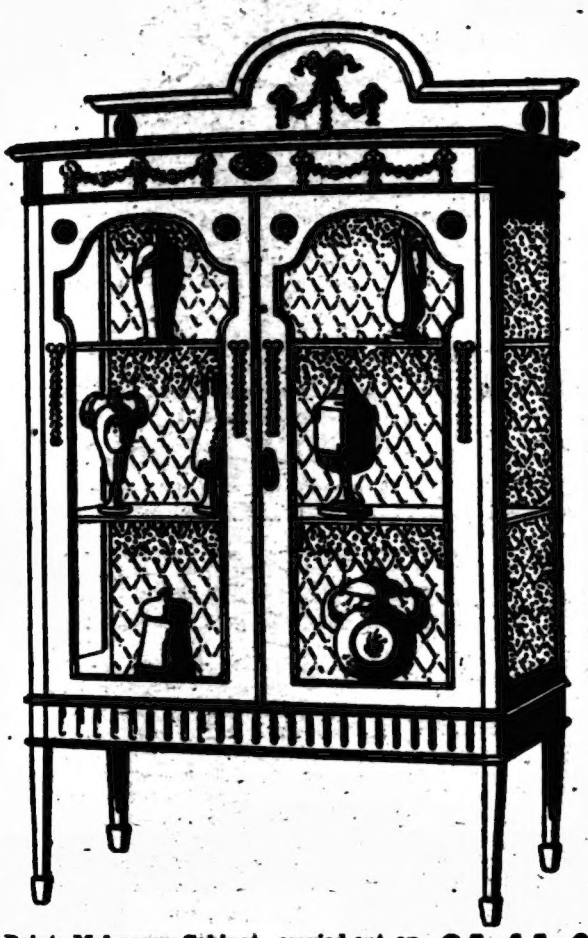
MISS H. B. (Forest Gate).—"The Blumine Romance in Sartor Resartus" sounds like a criticism by one of Rudyard Kipling's tin soldiers.

J. M. (Balham) writes: "Why should you hesitate to recommend me?" Not knowing the gentleman, we have no hesitation at all. His other questions are: "Now, supposing, JOHN BULL, you were working and were interested in your job" (what an extravagant idea!) "you were suddenly called away, say to run errands or clean windows, boots, knives, and the like, and even though it is not your work, be willing to oblige and not growl; also when you try hard to make a place Beautiful, would you like to have all your blooms spoiled by water being thrown over them, and when you attempt Politely to say they should not be wetted, receive a snub for your pains; dearest Horatio, do you prefer to recommend the man who likes a smoke and a glass or the man who does not? I do not drink or smoke." Nor do we, but we don't even boast about not eating mustard.

(A large number of replies are held over.)

The Letters of Mrs. Malaprop-Brown. See MRS. BULL.

THE ONLY WAY



Dainty Mahogany Cabinet, carried out on "Adams" lines. The inside and shelves are lined with pale green damask. **£4-14-6**

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Worth. £	Per Month. £ s. d.
10	6 0
20	11 0
50	1 8 0
100	2 5 0
200	4 10 0
500	11 5 0
1,000	22 10 0
2,000	45 0 0

Or by other proportionate payments to suit purchaser's convenience.

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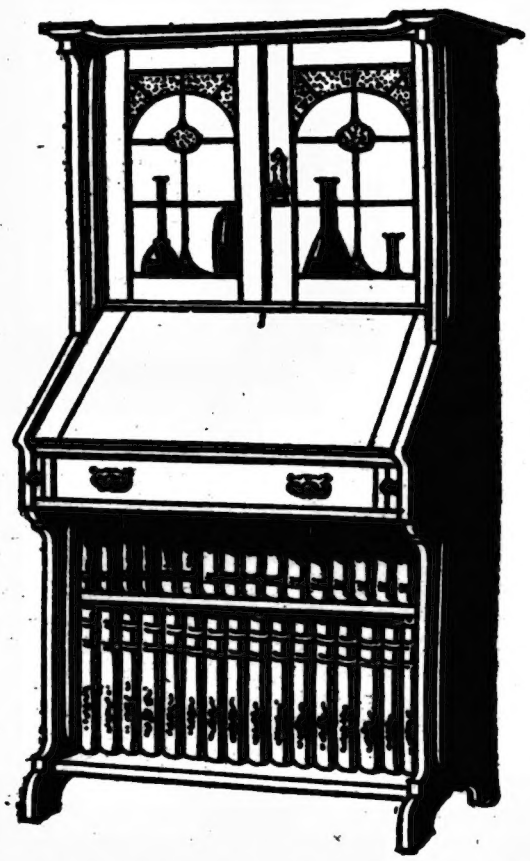

Large size oak bureau Bookcase, with fall down front. The top part is enclosed with leaded light glass doors. **£3-3-0**

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RACING NOTES.

By W. Lotinga.

(Of Lotinga's Weekly, *also "Larry Lynx" of* The People *and "Magpie" of* The Globe.*)*

Prophetic.

These are evil days for racing, and what *can* happen when horses are up to their fetlocks in mud is recognisedly wonderful. Thus we have to keep our eyes on the animals that are suited by the conditions, and in the Ebor Handicap to-day (Wednesday) none have better credentials than

Fort,

who is a stayer all over. Each way the black surely represents a safe and sound investment, whilst Formamint and Helium also look to be potential winners. The next day, Golden Sun ought, at any rate, to score a success for Mr. J. B. Joel, and Rath Hurley may justify earlier expectations in the sprint.

Week-end "savers" at Gatwick are Mustapha for whichever event he goes, Low Gard for the Rostrum Selling Handicap, and Royal Engineer for the Welter.

A COMPLAINT AND AN ANSWER.

BY THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER.

A few days ago I received what appeared to be a serious complaint from a Glasgow reader against Harry Appleton, the well-known Turf Commission Agent and Football Accountant, of 79-81, Borough High Street, London Bridge, and Rheinfelden, Switzerland. The man from Glasgow alleged that he had won a certain amount from Appleton, and that amount had not been sent him. He also made the definite statement that he had betted frequently with Appleton, but had never been successful in winning any amount except on this particular occasion. On the face of it, the complaint seemed well founded. In accordance with instructions from the Editor, I called at 79, Borough High Street, and placed the letter before Mr. Appleton. Without any hesitation I was conducted into the clerks' office. "Do you understand the card index system?" I was asked. My reply was in the affirmative. "Then there are the cards of my clients," he continued, pointing to the cabinet; "look up this man for yourself, and any question you wish to ask I shall be pleased to answer."

I at once looked up under the index letter the name of the person who had made the complaint, and I was astonished to find that not only had the particular amount in dispute been forwarded him, but two other substantial wins stood out boldly on the card as having been paid him. But that, of course, was not conclusive proof that the man had been actually paid. The card said that the man had been paid by postal orders, so I asked for the counterfoils, and took down the numbers. Subsequently I wrote the man who had made the complaint setting forth all the facts, and offered to communicate with the postmaster and ascertain by whom these postal orders had been cashed. Although it is three weeks since I wrote, the man has not thought it advisable to reply. In the circumstances, I can come to no other conclusion than that he was making a bogus claim; moreover, he placed me in a very awkward position. In the circumstances, all I could do was to offer my apologies to Mr. Appleton.

Mr. Appleton's slogan is "the man who always pays," and I thoroughly believe it.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Birmingham Man."—You will be quite safe in dealing with J. Beresford, of Corporation Street. He is one of the leading men in the Midlands. Football, we believe, is his speciality.

J. T. (Newcastle-on Tyne).—We have done our best to obtain an explanation from Prendergast and Hunter, 49, Old Bond Street, but without success, and we understand that they have now discontinued business.

F. O. F. (Hull).—All you have to do to participate in Diamond's Sweepstakes is to write direct for particulars to Mr. H. Diamond, Lucerne, Switzerland. The same remark applies to the sweepstakes of Mr. J. F. Awbery, also of Lucerne.

T. A. F. (Stirling).—We are making enquiries with reference to the Union Turf Club of Sion, Switzerland.

C. H. K. (Oswestry).—We are now engaged upon the compilation of our Sporting "Who's Who," and hope to have it ready by October.

Harmony (Brixton) complains of transactions with Mr. C. Hamilton Stapleton, of Oxford Street. Upon a previous occasion, when a reader complained Mr. Stapleton remitted the amount in dispute, and we trust he will do so in this case.

H. H. (Stonehouse) is another reader who complains of his transactions with Terry and Smallman, of Olten, whose impudent play upon the name of Messrs. Smallman and Terry, of Geneva, we have previously exposed. We hope to have some important information about these people before long.

M. PIZZEY'S Special Telegrams.

My Terms are the MULTIPLE OF 10/- every satisfactory selection.

From a purely business point of view, I require a guarantee or deposit of TWO POUNDS, this amount being returnable at option or can be deducted from the first or any moneys due, having been hit very severely by persons of the type who do not redeem their faithful promises.

If PAYMENT OUTRIGHT is preferred, the following fees will be accepted:
£5 PREPAID will cover the cost of TEN Occasional Special Telegrams.
£2 will pay for ONE GUARANTEED WINNER at ODDS AGAINST.

My Special Telegrams are ONE HORSE,

EXCEPT IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES when I consider it judicious to send Two, more particularly when they are from the same quarter and are both expected to score. However, for the convenience of System Workers, I always endeavour to place the best selection first on Wire, which should be a guide to patrons.

Some of the Long Price Successes for the last Two Months include:

Sweeper II. 6 to 1	Irish Marine 4 to 1	Coastwise 4½ to 1
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Maritza 4 to 1	Sherboro 11 to 4	Queer Fish 4 to 1
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Pink Domino 8 to 1	Kadine 10 to 1	Ashdee 3 to 1.
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ALL WON, most of them at exceptionally LONG PRICES.

My only Address is **M. PIZZEY Ascot, Berks.**

Where ALL Communications must be addressed.

J. BERESFORD

Turf & Football Accountant,

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND.

Old Clients please note New Address.

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Best Lists, Best Prices and Best Arrangements for Quick Payment.

GREAT INCREASE OF ODDS.

NO PRIZES, but right good PRICES, and your cash by return mail.

For Daily or Weekly Credit Turf Accounts, write,

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Corporation Street, - - Birmingham.

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J. BERESFORD,

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND.

BERT FRY, BIRSFELDEN, SWITZERLAND.

FOOTBALL.

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Write for Particulars. For my announcements see "Racing and Football Outlook."

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Instructions accepted from 2/6 upwards.

Clients may predict any combination of matches in the four Leagues, with the exception of one, two, or three home teams.

Don't wait for coupons; send your predictions to-day, together with the amount you wish to be invested. The following will give some idea of the odds returned by the Totalisator:—

12 1—4 H.	40/1—5 H., 1 A.
8/1—1 X.	38/1—3 H., 1 X.
25/1—3 H., 1 A.	52/1—4 A.
23 1—5 H.	43/1—2 H., 3 A.
37/1—4 H., 1 A.	86/1—7 H.
54 1—3 A.	36/1—2 X.
46 1—2 H., 2 A.	61/1—1 H., 4 A.
21 1—2 H., 1 X.	76/1—3 H., 3 A.
44 1—1 H., 3 A.	156/1—8 H.
35 1—3 H., 2 A.	112/1—4 H., 3 A.
48 1—6 H.	417/1—2 H., 5 A.

(H. signifies Home, A. Away, and X. Draw.)

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—*Verb. sap.*

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No deductions whatever.

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"Larry Lynx," in "Lotinga's Weekly," 28th October, 1911, says:—

"The man who employs a larger staff than anyone on the Continent conducting business at both horse-racing and "football is A. H. WESTWOOD, SWITZERLAND, whose business has now been founded for over 20 years. Such "facts surely speak for themselves as to a firm's bona fides, and Westwood has unquestionably adopted the correct, "straightforward and enterprising methods to create such a huge business."

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PRESS OPINIONS.

"Larry Lynx," of *The People* and *Lotinga's Weekly*, says: "My belief is that those who hide their identity under the name of 'Pilot' are thoroughly bona fide in their efforts."
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Alec Grant

FOOTBALL and TURF ACCOUNTANT.

Geneva, Switzerland,

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You cannot beat the best! Every Match in the four leagues to select from, and prices that are right in front.

1,000 FREE SEASON TICKETS. 1,000

I am giving to my Clients 1,000 Season Tickets for any Football Ground in the Kingdom, **FREE OF ALL COST.**

If you would like one, mention "John Bull" and send Postcard at once to,

Alec Grant,

Geneva, Switzerland.

J. McLAUCHLAN,

TURF AND FOOTBALL ACCOUNTANT,

Postage, 2½d. Post Cards, 1d. LUCERNE, SWITZERLAND.

PAYMENTS NIGHTLY. NO DELAYS.

Clients should handle their winnings daily. I don't put your winnings to credit but post them back to you first mail after results are known. Letters only require to bear a time postmark previous to advertised time of race, to be "on" according to rules.

NO LIMIT TO SINGLES.

DOUBLE EVENTS	50 to 1 LIMIT.
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Market price prevailing at the time your bet is póst-marked, originated and guaranteed by me.

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DON'T WASTE TIME WRITING FOR LISTS AND QUOTATIONS.

SPECIAL FACILITIES FOR S. P. BUSINESS.

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when Favourite starts "ODDS ON."

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1,000 to 1 the Field.

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DOUGLAS STUART
LIESTAL, SWITZERLAND.

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FOR CREDIT ACCOUNTS
APPLY TO
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